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ABSTRACT

This report provides an executive summary and overviews of the transcripts of each of the seven National hearings held prior to the White House Conference on Families. Involving testimony of citizens and experts, and site visits to innovative programs and groups serving families, the Hearings were held in Kansas, Tennessee, Colorado, Connecticut, Washington, D.C., Michigan and Washington. Issues and recommendations in the executive summary are organized according to the four major areas of concern identified by the White House Conference on Families. These areas are: families and economic well-being; challenges and responsibilities of families, families and human needs, and families and major institutions. The five issues receiving the most attention across the seven national hearings were (1) the role and impact of Federal, State, and local governments on families, (2) the availability and cost of and need for quality child care, (3) the availability of information or courses on family life education including parenting, marriage, and sex education, (4) the impact of poverty, inadequate income, and inflation on families, and (5) the increase in family violence and its causes and effects. (Author/SS)

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White House
Conference on FAMILIES

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NATIONAL HEARINGS
SUMMARY

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BALTIMORE • MINNEAPOLIS • LOS ANGELES

White House Conference on FAMILIES

LISTENING TO AMERICA'S FAMILIES

The White House Conference on Families Hearings

When the National Advisory Committee of the White House Conference on Families gathered for the first time last July, the Committee had to make a major decision about the direction of the Conference. They could function as a task force, developing a sophisticated definition and analysis of the problems facing American families and begin laying out potential solutions for discussion in the states. Or they could open up the process and seek opportunities to hear families articulate their own strengths and needs. They chose to begin this process by listening to families themselves -- and we have not regretted it for one moment.

The seven national hearings of the WHCF summarized in this book were exhilarating, exhausting, stimulating and moving. More than 2000 Americans voiced their concerns, fears, passions and hopes for families. The quantity and quality of testimony far surpassed our expectations.

The huge outpouring of concerns and recommendations both overwhelmed and challenged us. We heard from two members of the President's Cabinet, more than 25 members of Congress, eminent scholars, and leaders of national organizations. Most importantly, we heard from hundreds upon hundreds of ordinary family members -- mothers, fathers, and children; defenders of traditional values and advocates of alternative lifestyles; affluent suburban couples and inner-city mothers on public assistance; as well as business, labor and community leaders. We heard from the unemployed, victims of family violence, participants in marriage enrichment and self-help groups. We experienced the incredible richness, diversity and strength of American families. We saw the human faces and emotions that give life to the statistical charts and philosophical abstractions which frequently dominate discussions of family issues.

Their message was enormously positive. Americans from every walk of life, of all races, of every political and philosophical persuasion demonstrated a deep faith in families as the bedrock, the starting point for surviving in an increasingly complex society.

They told us several things about American families. Many families are making it, succeeding and prevailing. Many others are coping with new and difficult pressures -- economic, social, personal -- that make their lives more difficult. Still others have been overwhelmed by those pressures. They have broken and they are asking for our compassion and help.

Format

Between the end of September and early January, 35 members of the NAC conducted 13 days of hearings in 11 communities in 6 states and the District of Columbia. The dates and sites included:

September 28	Kansas City, Kansas
September 29	Linsborg, Kansas
October 12	Nashville, Tennessee
October 13	Memphis, Tennessee
October 26-27	Denver, Colorado
November 16	Hartford, Connecticut
November 17	Stamford, Connecticut
November 30	U.S. Congress, Washington, D.C.
December 1	District Building, Washington, D.C.
December 7	Detroit, Michigan
December 8	Oak Park, Michigan
January 11	Seattle, Washington

There were two kinds of testimony: preregistered witnesses who were placed on panels of 6 and were limited to 5 minutes; and "speak out" participants who were heard on a "first-come first-heard" basis for 3 minutes. The tremendous response to the hearings required that 3-5 simultaneous hearings be conducted at each site for more than 20 hours over the two days. More than 400 witnessess were heard in Michigan alone.

In addition, NAC members who conducted the hearings also made site visits to innovative programs and groups serving families. We visited an inner-city health care center, a public school for handicapped children, a cooperative child-care center, a shelter for abused spouses, a home for runaway youth and a senior citizens center, among others.

More than 4000 people attended the hearings and almost half of that group were witnesses. The entire process was recorded and transcribed, yielding to more than 10,000 pages of testimony.

Analysis

There is no way to share each story with you. There is no way to compress 600 hours of testimony into a usuable document without losing much of the emotion, conviction and human dimensions. Nonetheless, it is crucially important that you read the summary introduction. It was prepared for us by the National Institute for Advanced Studies (NIAS). They read every word of testimony and have attempted to organize and summarize the more than 10,000 pages of transcripts into a document for your use in preparation for the WHCF. It includes an executive summary and overview of each of the seven hearings. It will provide you with a real sense of the concerns of the people who testified at the WHCF hearings.

Major Concerns

Using the data for each of the seven hearings developed by the NIAS, we have compiled the following listing of the major concerns of the individuals who participated in the WHCF hearings. Related topics have been grouped together for reasons of clarity. It differs slightly from the NIAS summary because of minor differences in grouping of topics. In the first fifteen concerns, a limited breakdown of the major issues within each topic is included where possible.

RANK	CONCERN	FREQUENCY
1.	Sensitivity of Government -- sensitivity to families (214) -- sensitivity to racial/ethnic/religious differences (49) -- accessability and accountability (21) -- appropriate role of government -- specific policies which hurt, help or ignore families -- family impact analysis	299
2.	Economic Pressures -- inflation and poverty (138) -- unemployment (66)	204

RANK	CONCERN	FREQUENCY
3.	Support for Specific Families	193
	-- traditional families (77)	
	-- single-parent families (58)	
	-- extended families (19)	
	-- others or general (39)	
4.	Child Care	184
	-- availability of quality child care (137)	
	-- cost (23)	
	-- role of family, neighborhood, community groups, churches, and government	
5.	Education	171
	-- quality and availability (68)	
	-- home/school relations (54)	
	-- moral concerns (26)	
	-- responsiveness to diverse needs (23)	
6.	Health	161
	-- availability, cost and quality (63)	
	-- preventive health care (41)	
	-- maternal and infant care (30)	
	-- mental health (24)	
7.	Work and Families	149
	-- flexible employment practices (43)	
	-- discrimination in work (40)	
	-- increased participation (36)	
	-- business and families (24)	
	-- counseling on the job (8)	

RANK	CONCERN	FREQUENCY
8.	Family Life Education	147
	-- preparation for parenting (87)	
	-- preparation for marriage (26)	
	-- sex education (22)	
	-- other or general (13)	
9.	Children and Parents	130
	-- responsible parenting (52)	
	-- supports for parents and children (39)	
	-- general (39)	
10.	Community Institutions	127
	-- religious institutions (80)	
	-- self-help groups and others (47)	
11.	Family Violence	124
	-- child abuse	
	-- spouse abuse	
	-- abuse of the elderly	
12.	Family Planning	123
	-- concern about abortion (88)	
	-- other family planning issues (30)	
13.	Financial Assistance to Families	121
	-- welfare and welfare reform (75)	
	-- Social Security (12)	
	-- food stamps (5)	
	-- other (29)	

RANK	CONCERN	FREQUENCY
14.	Housing -- cost and quality (45) -- discrimination -- neighborhood factors	82
15.	Media -- impact of television and radio (30) -- support for family values -- presentation of family life, minorities, women, housewives, etc.	70
16.	Divorce and Separation	50
17.	Law	48
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22.	Adoption and Foster Care	35
23.	Social Services	30
24.	Marriage	25
25.	Military Families	20

These concerns are at the heart of the WHCF. Thousands of people are counting on you and me to translate their concerns into real action to strengthen and support families. These hearings left me with several unmistakeable impressions:

- American families are alive, vital and working overtime to survive;
- American families are under enormous and unprecedented pressures;
- Our major institutions -- governmental, economic and social -- exacerbate these pressures by insensitive policies and thoughtless neglect of families; and
- Policies and programs which ignore or undermine family values and influences are destined to fail since they ignore the institution Americans value above all others -- their families.

This summary is a valuable tool to help you prepare for your responsibilities as a delegate to the WHCF. I think that you will find it useful and I hope that you read it thoroughly.

Jim Guy Tucker

Jim Guy Tucker
Chairperson
White House Conference
on Families

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SUMMARY OF NATIONAL HEARINGS OF THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON FAMILIES

HEW 100-80-0019

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

The White House Conference on Families was called by President Carter " ... to examine the strengths of American families, the difficulties they face and the ways in which family life is affected by public policy." To maximize participation in and contributions to the three White House Conferences, seven pre-conference national hearings have been held which, in effect, took the Conference to the people.

This report entitled "Summary of National Hearings of the White House Conference on Families" presents a distillation of the written and oral testimony. More than 1700 persons presented oral testimony and more than 400 persons presented written testimony in connection with the national hearings which were held between September 28, 1979 and January 12, 1980. Participants included representatives from local governments, professional organizations, advocacy groups, service providers, academic institutions, religious organizations, "grass roots" organizations and individual family members representing themselves.

With one exception, each of the seven national hearings was held over a two-day period in: Kansas; Tennessee; Colorado; Connecticut; Washington, D.C.; Michigan; and the State of Washington. (The hearing scheduled to be held at Yakima was cancelled due to weather conditions.) The format for conducting the hearings permitted participation from persons who had pre-registered, as well as from other individuals who testified during the less structured "speak out" sessions. The issues addressed covered such concerns as the impact of inflation and unemployment on family stability, child care arrangements, tax policy, and the problems of single parents. Major topics and issues were extracted from the testimony and are summarized in this report.

This report has been prepared for distribution to delegates who will attend the three White House Conferences on Families to be held in June and July of 1980. The delegates at these Conferences will have the responsibility of formulating policy recommendations regarding ways in which major public and private institutions can strengthen and support families. This summary will serve as a resource for those deliberations.

As in the report, the issues and recommendations which follow in this executive summary have been organized according to the four major areas of concern identified by the White House Conference on Families:

- Families and Economic Well-Being;
- Families: Challenges and Responsibilities;
- Families and Human Needs; and
- Families and Major Institutions.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The five issues which received the most attention across the seven national hearings have been organized according to the four major areas of concern listed above and are presented in order of frequency. A more detailed discussion of the specific issues presented at each national hearing is presented in the individual overviews in Chapter III of the report.

Families and Major Institutions

Role and Impact of Federal, State, and Local Governments on Families. The issue concerning the role and impact of federal, state and local governments on families was one of the ten most frequently cited issues at each of the national hearings. Further, for the hearings held in Kansas, Michigan, and Washington, D.C., it was the most frequently cited issue regardless of topic area. It is also important to note that in summarizing across the national hearings, the issue concerning the role and impact of government on families was addressed by more presenters than any other issue.

The general theme of presenters' concerns focused in two areas. Some presenters felt that government policies and programs (particularly at the federal level) contribute substantially to family breakdown. They spoke of government's "intrusion" into the religious and moral values of families, or simply government's "intrusion" where it is unwanted and does not belong, i.e., in the family.

Other presenters spoke positively of government's involvement with families, while encouraging government to reexamine existing policies and programs to insure that they support and strengthen families and, in some cases, encouraging government to incorporate religious values in policy development.

Families and Human Needs

Availability, Cost, and Need for Quality Child Care. The issue of quality child care was of major concern at each of the national hearings. It was the most frequently cited issue for the hearings in Colorado regardless of topic area, and was the second most frequently cited issue by presenters from all hearings.

Most presenters called for an increase in the number and types of child care arrangements available, stressing the importance of quality child care. Some presenters were also concerned about the cost of quality child care, which is too often prohibitive for many families. Some presenters also criticized current day care regulations as too restrictive, precluding the participation of many children in programs. A few presenters spoke against licensed child care facilities because it would eliminate relatives (e.g., grandmothers) as possible child care providers, while others criticized government for creating too much bureaucratic red tape regarding the use of government funded child care facilities.

Availability of Information or Courses on Family Life Education Including Parenting, Marriage and Sex Education. This issue was a major concern at five of the seven national hearings, including those held in Kansas, Tennessee, Connecticut, Washington, D.C. and Washington. The general concern raised by presenters was the overall lack of adequate information or educational courses which could prepare adolescents for parenting and marriage, or which could assist parents in coping with family problems.

Families and Economic Well-Being

Impact of Poverty, Inadequate Income, and Inflation on Families. This particular issue was the third most frequently cited by presenters when summarizing across the national hearings. It was among the ten most frequently cited issues for each of the hearings except those held in the State of Michigan. (Presenters at the Michigan hearings did cite unemployment as a major issue, which is certainly related to inadequate income.)

Presenters generally focused on the relationship between economic hardship and family problems, citing inflation coupled with inadequate income (due to unemployment or fixed incomes) as causal factors in such family problems as: juvenile delinquency, family violence, drug and alcohol abuse and divorce. Some presenters focused specifically on inflation and its disproportionate impact on the poor, the elderly, farmers, Blacks and Indians. Other presenters stated that inadequate income has forced families to become dependent on the government and has made it difficult for families to fulfill their basic human needs for food, health care and housing.

Families: Challenges and Responsibilities

Increase in Family Violence, Its Causes and Effects. The fourth most frequently cited issue by presenters across all the national hearings was the increase in family violence. Only the presenters at the hearings held in Kansas did not place major emphasis on this issue. (However, presenters at the Kansas hearings did cite factors which affect parent-child relations, which is a related issue, as a major concern for them.)

Many of the presenters cited economic pressures, absence of the woman from the home, and lack of family life education as factors which have led to the increase in spouse and child abuse, while others raised concerns, in general, about the increase in family violence and the need for more local and national programs to deal with this problem.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations which have been summarized across all seven national hearings in Chapter V have been further condensed here and are presented according to the four major areas of concern. Although they are not presented in order of the frequency with which they were mentioned, they are among the more frequently cited recommendations.

Families and Economic Well-Being

1. Federal and state governments should take steps to stop inflation and reduce the economic burden on individuals. For example, government should: establish a minimum guaranteed income standard; provide subsidies to low-income families for utilities; increase social security benefit levels; revise Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program to increase benefits and to include two-parent families; and revise tax policies to reduce taxes, provide tax consideration for homemakers, and eliminate the marriage penalty.

2. The federal government should make employment and education national priorities. For example, government should: support an increase in the number of available jobs and job training programs, especially for low-income persons and minorities, and provide tax credits to businesses which initiate job training and career advancement programs for the unemployed, especially low-income persons and minorities.

3. The private sector should provide more jobs and job training programs, especially for low-income families and minorities. The private sector also should support more aggressive affirmative action programs.

4. Employers should strive for increased flexibility in employment (personnel) practices in terms of such things as: flexitime; increased opportunities and benefits for part-time employment; maternity and paternity leave (to include adoptive parents); and sick leave allowances for parents whose children are ill.

Families: Challenges and Responsibilities

1. Federal, state and local governments should reform the foster care system.

2. Federal, state and local governments should develop coordinated services and programs to assist handicapped persons and their families, pregnant adolescents, and victims and perpetrators of family violence.

3. The White House Conference on Families should examine alternative (to the traditional) family lifestyles (e.g., single parents) and identify their strengths and make recommendations with regard to overcoming weaknesses.

4. The federal government should support the extended family concept.

5. The private sector should support programs and services to meet the needs of single parents and displaced homemakers.

6. Communities should develop various support services that provide coordinated services to families, e.g., develop family life education courses which provide parent education, training in interpersonal communication skills, and address the issue of divorce and separation and related problems.

7. Families should assume responsibility for establishing and fostering values.

Families and Human Needs

1. Federal, state and local governments should upgrade the quality of programs and services in the area of health (including preventive services), education and housing, especially for low-income families and the elderly.

2. Public and private family planning services should be available to all women and the federal government should conduct more research on improving methods of contraception. With regard to abortion, there are two positions: (1) the government should not fund or support abortion programs; and (2) all financial and legal barriers to abortion should be removed.

3. There are two positions regarding government involvement in child care: (1) federal and state governments should provide more funding for child care programs and revise eligibility criteria which currently exclude too many children; and (2) the government should "get out of the business of child care" and return child care programs to the control of the private sector.

4. Federal and state governments should provide support, both in terms of funding and services, to make it possible for elderly persons to live with their families and avoid institutionalization.

5. The private sector and communities should assist in providing a variety of quality child care arrangements to allow parents choice and to meet different needs; e.g., after-school care, infant care, care for handicapped children, arrangements available for parents who work split shifts.

6. Communities should develop educational and treatment programs for alcohol and drug abusers which would involve family members.

7. Parents should be more involved in the educational system to insure that what is being taught is consistent with the values taught in the home.

8. Communities should develop family life education programs to include sex education, preparation for marriage and preparation for parenting. In addition, family life centers should be set up to provide ongoing help in parenting.

Families and Major Institutions

1. Federal and state governments should review all policies to determine their "family impact." They should also be more sensitive to changing family structures (e.g., increase in single parent families) and cultural, racial and ethnic diversity among families. Government also should work with business and local communities to improve the quality of life for families.

2. The federal government should improve coordination among federal agencies so as to avoid the fragmentation which currently exists.

3. The federal government should increase the number of predeployment seminars and other support services for military families.

4. The federal government should have more control over television programming and should encourage the electronic media to present programming which supports the permanency of marriage and the importance of parenthood and family relationships.

5. The federal government should provide more intensive monitoring of compliance in regard to civil rights legislation and affirmative action.

6. Federal and state governments should establish social service programs which are accessible and should broaden the base of Title XX eligibility.

7. State court systems should: more strictly enforce alimony and support payments; simplify legal procedures for child custody; and expand court-related counseling services in divorce cases.

8. With regard to "cults"/alternative religions, there are two positions: (1) the federal government should take an objective approach when looking at religions, especially "minority" religions; and (2) the federal government should investigate "cults" and establish support programs for families whose members have joined these religious groups.

9. The communications industry should support television programming which reflects an honest picture of family lifestyles and of cultural, ethnic and racial groups.

10. The private sector should provide transportation assistance to low-income families and the elderly.

11. Neighborhood and community groups and organizations (especially churches), should provide a "grass roots" network of support services to families.

I. INTRODUCTION

The White House Conference on Families (WHCF) was called by President Carter "to examine the strengths of American families, the difficulties they face and the ways in which family life is affected by public policy." A process has been developed to achieve the goals of the conference which included holding a series of seven national hearings across the country.

The hearings were convened to provide a forum for interested citizens to identify the strengths and needs of families and to identify approaches that can be initiated to strengthen and support families. Oral testimony was presented by more than 1700 persons and over 400 submitted written testimony. Participants included representatives from local government, professional organizations, advocacy groups, service providers, academic institutions, religious organizations, grass roots organizations and individual family members representing themselves.

With one exception, each of the seven national hearings was held over a two-day period in: Kansas; Tennessee; Colorado; Connecticut; Washington, D.C.; Michigan; and the State of Washington. (The hearing scheduled for Yakima was cancelled due to weather conditions.) The format for conducting the hearings permitted participation from pre-registered persons, as well as from individuals who testified during the less structured "speak out" sessions. The issues addressed covered such concerns as health care, child care, taxation, services for the elderly, single parents and the impact of unemployment and inflation on family stability. The transcribed testimony (over 7,300 pages) and the written materials submitted by the participants (an estimated 1,800 pages) were collected and have been summarized in this document.

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report is designed for distribution to the delegates at the three White House Conferences on Families to be held in June and July of 1980. The delegates at these conferences will be charged with the responsibility of holding deliberations and formulating policy recommendations on ways in which major public and private institutions can strengthen and support families. This summary of testimony from the national hearings will serve as resource information for the deliberations at the White House Conferences by presenting a broad spectrum of citizens' views regarding:

- the ways in which the role of families is influenced by public and private policy; and
- the approaches that are critical to the development of policies, programs and legislation that will improve the quality of life for families.

II. BACKGROUND

MAJOR TASKS

The major tasks for this project required the following activities:

- Review of all oral and written testimony for each of the seven national hearings;
- Extraction of issues that typify concerns expressed by the presenters regarding strengths, needs and the changing role of families;
- Development of an overview of each of the seven national hearings that includes a summary of issues and recommendations presented in the testimony;
- Development of a summary of the findings of all of the hearings that identifies frequency with which issues were addressed, similarities and differences by region and by categories of organizations that presented testimony; and
- Development of a summary of recommendations presented in all of the hearings, grouping them according to the four areas of concern identified by WHCF.

METHODOLOGY

In order to accomplish the above tasks, a methodology was developed to allow for: the review of the more than 9,000 pages of transcripts and written testimony; the categorization of issues and recommendations; and the summarization of the data as specified in the tasks.

Review

Using a form specifically designed for the purpose, the testimony was closely reviewed to extract topics, issues and recommendations presented by each participant and to identify his/her geographic and group affiliation. Since it was anticipated that presenters represented a wide spectrum of the population, very broad and general group categories were identified as follows: academic institutions, groups that would be generally classified as advocacy groups, professional service providers, community service organizations, local government service providers, state government policy and program administrations, and individuals who were representing themselves only.

Categorization

The data collected were then categorized to allow for a count of the frequency with which topics and issues were addressed and to allow for summarization of the material. The "Sample Topic Outline" (see Appendix A) developed by the WHCF was used as the guideline for categorizing the topics and issues. As the topics and issues were identified, it became necessary to expand the outline with additional topics in order to obtain a more accurate frequency count. Sub-topics were rephrased to represent the issues identified and re-organized where necessary.

Major Section Development

Using data collected during the review and categorization phases, the overview for each national hearing was developed. Topics and issues discussed in the overviews were selected on the basis of the frequency with which they were addressed. Recommendations are discussed in association with the issues to which they are related. Other recommendations frequently cited but not summarized in the text are listed in the section entitled "Additional Recommendations."

Data presented in the overviews were then used as the basis for developing the sections which summarize the findings and recommendations across all seven hearings.

ORGANIZATION OF THE REPORT

The following sections of the report include:

- a section containing an overview of each of the seven national hearings;
- a section containing a summary and comparison of findings from all the hearings;
- a section containing a summary of recommendations, identifying those which require public and private initiatives; and
- an Appendix that contains the "Sample Topic Outline" developed by the WHCF, a sample of the review form used to extract data from the testimony, and the names of persons who provided testimony at the seven national hearings.

III. OVERVIEWS OF NATIONAL HEARINGS

INTRODUCTION

This section of the report contains an overview of each of the seven national hearings of the White House Conference on Families. Each overview includes:

- a summary of topics and issues most frequently discussed at the hearing;
- a list of the more frequently presented recommendations; and
- exhibits that display the frequency with which topics and issues were addressed by participants.

Each summary presents the five topics most frequently mentioned by participants at the hearing. For the most part, two key issues related to each topic are discussed including recommendations associated with each issue. The list of recommendations at the end of each summary includes those which were not discussed within the body of the text but which were mentioned frequently.

There are two exhibits within each overview. The first reflects the range and frequencies of topics and issues presented at the hearings. The second exhibit presents the ten issues most frequently presented at the hearings and reflects the frequency with which various groups discussed the issues.

The topics and issues presented in the overviews are consistent with the topical outline provided by the White House Conference on Families (see Appendix A); however, some have been incorporated under other major areas of concern, e.g., preparation for marriage and parenting have been grouped under family life education.

OVERVIEW
HEARINGS AND WRITTEN TESTIMONY
STATE OF KANSAS

The hearings in the State of Kansas were held on September 28 and 29, 1979, in Kansas City and Lindsburg, respectively. More than 200 persons testified during the hearings and 67 submitted written testimony. Representatives from organizations and groups such as the Missouri Council of Family Relations, the Menninger Foundation, and 4-H clubs, and numerous individuals speaking on behalf of themselves and their families presented testimony.

TOPICS AND ISSUES

Both the oral and written testimony included a broad range of topics including the effect of government on the family, parent-child relations, parental rights and childrens' rights, family life education, family planning, and inflation. Exhibits 1 and 2 present the frequency with which topics and issues were addressed by different groups and organizations. Presented below are discussions of the five topic areas most frequently cited by presenters, and within each topic area one of two issues which received the greatest attention. The topics and issues are presented within the framework of the four major areas of concern developed by the White House Conference on Families.

Families: Challenges and Responsibilities

Children and Parents. The two issues that received the most attention under this topic were:

- responsible parenting together with parent-child relations; and
- need for supports for parents and children.

Many presenters addressed the joint issue of responsible parenting and parent-child relations, emphasizing parental responsibility for the child's moral and religious upbringing. They further noted that in today's society, some family members do not spend sufficient time together, nor, in some cases, do they communicate well with each other. Finally, many presenters felt that the movement for children's rights, or child advocacy, has undermined the rights of parents and their authority within the family structure. For the most part, presenters recommended the following:

- children should not be granted the same rights as parents; and
- family members should spend more time together participating in joint activities, providing mutual support to one another practicing effective communication skills and devoting increased time to prayer.

A second issue addressed by several presenters was that of support for parents and children. A major recommendation was as follows:

- community support systems should be developed and funded that will provide coordinated services to families and help preserve and strengthen the family unit.

Family Crises. The issues that received the most attention under this topic were:

- the increase of child abuse and neglect;
- the effect of divorce on families; and
- the problems associated with adolescent pregnancies.

A number of presenters focused on the increase in child abuse and neglect, while others addressed the effects of divorce on the family and the rise in and problems which result from adolescent pregnancies (for example, the medical risk to the teenager). Recommendations included the following:

- programs for the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect should be developed, including "national initiatives" in this area;
- community support networks and workshops for divorcees or those contemplating divorce should be developed; and
- family planning services should be provided.

Families and Human Needs

Family Planning. The issues that were addressed most frequently by presenters were:

- unavailability of information on family planning; and
- the pros and cons of abortion.

Several presenters discussed the unavailability of information on family planning and various difficulties encountered by parents with many children, such as the severe economic burdens and the reductions in the quality of parenting. Presenters tended to recommend the following:

- there should be greater support for family planning services, for example, ". . . [expand] the current health care concept to include family planning," and ". . . [strengthen] the network of family planning clinics."

Among those who raised the issue of abortion, approximately half of the presenters supported the position that it is a woman's right to elect to have an abortion. The remaining half of the participants emphasized that abortion is not an appropriate method for family planning and that the rights of the unborn child must be protected. Recommendations were divided:

- those in favor of abortion rights recommended the " . . . removal of financial and legal barriers to legalized abortion for all women . . ."; and

- those not in favor of abortion rights called for the reversal of the Supreme Court decision on abortion.

Family Life Education. The issue raised most frequently by presenters in connection with this topic was:

- preparation for parenting;

Almost all of the presenters who raised this issue focused on the lack of adequate information on parenting and/or the lack of formal educational or training courses to develop parenting skills. As one presenter put it, "Profound societal changes have all but negated the parenting forms which parents themselves experienced in growing up . . . The only training most parents have had is from their own parents." Recommendations included:

- ". . . mandatory family life/parenting courses [should be developed and implemented] in public school grades kindergarten through twelve"; and

- a ". . . nationwide network of family life centers" from which family members can receive help in parenting should be developed.

Families and Major Institutions

Government: Local, State, Federal. The principal issue raised in connection with this topic was:

- government sensitivity and accountablity to families.

The majority of presenters discussed the negative impact of government on families, emphasizing that the government tends to form policies with little concern for their effects on families. Further, the regulations and policies developed by the government interfere with or undermine the strengths and moral values of the family unit. Recommendations included the following:

- there should be less government control over families and/or ". . . no direct government involvement with families," particularly with regard to the religious, moral or value structure of families;

- the federal government should conduct studies on the family to determine areas of need and examine effects of current policies and programs on families before any new programs directed toward families are implemented;

- the federal government should formally recognize and provide support to non-traditional family units such as non-related adults living together, single parents and childless couples.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The following section presents additional recommendations which were addressed by presenters with some frequency. The recommendations are presented within the framework of the four major areas of concern developed by the White House Conference on Families and are representative of a variety of topic areas and issues.

Families and Economic Well-Being

1. Federal and state government should take action to stop inflation.

2. Federal and state government should encourage employers to establish flexitime as policy.

3. The federal government should revise tax policy to reduce taxes, to provide tax consideration for homemakers and to eliminate the marriage penalty.

Families: Challenges and Responsibilities

1. Local government should develop coordinated services and programs to assist families with handicapped children.

Families and Human Needs

1. The private sector should establish more community-based child care facilities staffed with qualified child care providers.

2. Federal and state government should revise current child care regulations which currently exclude too many children.

3. Local communities and parents should examine public school curricula to determine how they influence and/or infringe upon the religious or moral values of the family.

4. Local communities and schools should support nutrition education and programs which provide nutritious food to children when their families cannot do so.

5. Local communities should establish educational and treatment programs for alcohol and drug abusers which involve the family members.

Families and Major Institutions

1. The federal government should encourage the electronic media to present programming which emphasizes and supports the permanency of marriage and the importance of parenthood and family relations.

EXHIBIT 1
FREQUENCY OF TOPICS AND ISSUES ADDRESSED*
STATE OF KANSAS TESTIMONY

FAMILIES AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING	
Inflation/Poverty/Inadequate Income	20
-effects on family stability	16
-other issues	4
Employment/Unemployment	4
Flexible Employment Practices	1
Increased Participation in the Workforce	10
-women	7
-minorities	3
Counseling Services at Work	2
Employment Discrimination	1
Families as Consumers	1
Financial Assistance	4

FAMILIES: CHALLENGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	
Marriage	6
Children and Parents	41
-parent/child relations	21
-supports for parents/ children	12
-responsible parenting	8
Special Challenges	15
-handicapping conditions	7
-single parenthood	5
-adoption/foster care	3
Family Crises	24
-child abuse	8
-divorce and separation	7
-other issues	9
Family Structures	6

*Exhibit lists breakdown of issues presented when a topic was addressed ten or more times.

EXHIBIT 1 (Continued)
FREQUENCY OF TOPICS AND ISSUES ADDRESSED
STATE OF KANSAS TESTIMONY

FAMILIES AND HUMAN NEEDS	
Availability of Quality Health Care	1
Maternal and Infant Health	7
Family Planning	25
-abortion	15
-other issues	10
Mental Health	1
Preventive Health Care	15
-food and nutrition	14
-other issues	1
Drug and Alcohol Abuse	10
-prevention programs	6
-treatment programs	4
Availability of Quality Education	14
-moral/religious instruction	9
-other issues	5
Home and School Relations	4
Family Life Education	33
-preparation for parenting	25
-preparation for marriage	5
-sex education in schools	3
Special Education and Families	2
Housing	5
Child Care	19
-availability of quality programs	8
-impact of federal regulations	4
-other issues	7
Services to the Elderly	1

FAMILIES AND MAJOR INSTITUTIONS	
Government: Local, State, Federal	45
-sensitivity to families	41
-other issues	4
Military Families	2
Media	7
Law	3
Social Services	2
Community Institutions	8
Transportation	3

EXHIBIT 2

STATE OF KANSAS - TEN MOST FREQUENTLY ADDRESSED ISSUES

Issue	Frequency of Presentation of Issues	Academic Institutions	Advocacy Groups	Professional Service Providers	Community Service Groups	Local Gov. Service Providers	State Gov't Admin.	*Other
1. Policies and practices of the government and their impact on the family	41	0	8	1	0	0	0	32
2. Lack of adequate information and training on parenting	25	0	6	5	1	0	0	13
3. Factors which influence the relationship between parent and child	21	1	2	0	2	0	0	16
4. Inflation and its impact on families	20	1	2	0	2	0	0	15
5. Availability and cost of quality child care	19	2	4	0	0	1	4	8
6. Concern over abortion	15	0	1	4	0	0	0	10
7. Availability, quality and cost of education	14	1	0	0	0	0	0	13
8. Poor nutritional habits, adequacy of information on nutrition	14	1	5	1	0	0	0	7
9. Families in need of strong support systems	12	0	3	3	0	0	0	6
10. Women and minorities in the work force: economic and social factors	10	0	1	0	0	0	0	9

*Included in this category are individuals who testified on their own behalf and individuals with groups or organizations which could not be categorized.

OVERVIEW
HEARINGS AND WRITTEN TESTIMONY
STATE OF TENNESSEE

Hearings were held on October 12, 1979, in Nashville, Tennessee and on October 13, 1979, in Memphis, Tennessee. More than 135 persons presented testimony at these hearings and another 38 submitted written testimony. Representatives from groups such as Legal Services for Senior Citizens, Cooperative Extension Service and the Commission on the Disabled, and numerous individuals representing themselves participated in the conference activities.

TOPICS AND ISSUES

The topics presented in both oral and written testimony ranged from broad concerns about the level of federal government intervention in family matters and the impact of unemployment on the family, to specific concerns regarding foster care services and child care costs. The frequency with which topics and issues were addressed by groups or organizations represented such a broad spread that they are best presented in chart form (see Exhibits 3 and 4). The following five topics were addressed most frequently by presenters and will be discussed with the two issues under each topic that received the most attention by the participants. The topics have been organized under the four areas of concern developed by the White House Conference on Families.

Families and Economic Well-Being

Inflation. The two issues that received the most attention under this topic were:

- relationship of inflation to other family and social problems;
- impact of inflation on the poor, the elderly, farmers and minorities.

The majority of presenters at the hearings stressed the relationship between economic hardship and family problems. The rise in the cost of living was cited as responsible for the increased participation of women in the work force. Inflation coupled with unemployment were mentioned as causal factors in a range of family and social problems which included: increased crime; juvenile delinquency; drug and alcohol abuse; family violence; and divorce and separation. Recommendations cited included:

- jobs and job training;
- increased welfare benefits; and
- government sensitivity to family pressures as legislation and policies are formulated.

Presenters who discussed the impact of inflation on the poor, the elderly, and the farmer described the particular hardships these groups experience as a result of inflation. Minorities such as Indians and Blacks were mentioned as high risk groups that suffer disproportionately from inflation and unemployment. Statistics were cited that 33% of Black households exist at the poverty level with the 1977 median income for Blacks being $9,560 compared with $16,740 for Whites. The elderly living on a fixed income cannot adequately provide for basic necessities, and farmers are having trouble supporting their farms and purchasing the necessary equipment to adequately run them. Recommendations included but were not limited to:

- creation of job centers for Indians with relevant training programs;
- financial assistance to the poor and elderly so that they "can live simply and with dignity";
- sensitivity on the part of government to the problems of the poor and elderly;
- support for the small farmer and better representation at the national level;
- jobs for blacks and females; and
- adequate housing for the poor, the elderly and minorities.

Financial Assistance. The two issues that received the most attention under this topic were:

- the need for welfare reform; and
- impact of social security on family structure.

Presenters addressing the issue of welfare reform focused on the inadequacies of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (the AFDC program). The overwhelming majority of presenters stated that the benefit level was too low and that 1969 standards are being used to determine welfare eligibility. Of special concern was the policy that families with two parents can't receive welfare benefits. Presenters cited this policy as responsible for family breakdown and the separation of parents. A student expressing his personal concerns regarding the welfare system said:

> "I feel that people living on welfare need more money. How I know this is that my mother is on welfare and when she gets through paying her bills she has nothing for herself. My father works at the hospital and when he and my mother were together they could not support each other. When they had their children they separated from each other."

Recommendations cited for these concerns were:

- the revision of the AFDC program to increase benefits and expansion of eligibility to include two-parent families;
- a reduction of the number of days persons must wait to receive emergency assistance; and
- an update in eligibility standards.

Presenters who expressed concern regarding the Social Security program emphasized that policies "don't support families." Significantly affected by these policies are the elderly who receive inadequate benefits and are forced to live "outside marriage" to prevent reductions in benefits. Presenters stated that Social Security benefits encourage women to work and don't sufficiently support women who want to remain at home. Recommendations cited to address these concerns included:

- the need to review Social Security policies for their impact on families, especially the elderly; and
- the need to increase benefit levels.

Families: Challenges and Responsibilities

Family Structure. The two issues which received the most attention under this topic were:

- the need to reinforce values associated with the "traditional family"; and
- the level of government intervention in family matters.

Many participants defined the "traditional family" as one which consists of two parents who clearly differentiate their roles within the family. Presenters stressed that essential to this family is a strong religious orientation based on Biblical precepts which provide the value framework for living within the family as well as dealing with society at large. Participants expressed strong concerns that this framework is being threatened by factors such as divorce, permissiveness within the family, increased participation in the work force by women, abortion and the diminished influence of religion in American society. The primary recommendation made by many participants was:

- "a return to God and His laws would enhance family life."

Participants who addressed the issue of the appropriate level of government intervention in family life expressed concern that government policies are formulated without regard to the values families hold and consequently are responsible for family disruption. While most acknowledged government's legitimate role in certain areas such as defense and the economy, many were opposed to government's involvement in family matters, especially those related to the rearing of children.

Government's involvement was viewed as most disturbing to some as it related to the educational system which "teaches humanistic values which destroy family life." One presenter summed up the recommendation:

> "We call for less government intervention in family affairs rather than more. We plead with those who govern to preserve an atmosphere which will nourish the traditional family lifestyle and which will promote the practice of tried and true principles that this land of America may remain great."

Special Challenges. The issues that received the most attention under this topic were:

- supports for foster parenting; and
- needs of single parents.

Presenters discussing the issue of foster care described the program as "not working" and identified foster children as the "forgotten segment in our society." Acknowledging that children need permanent homes, presenters stressed the failure of the foster care program and emphasized repeatedly that children are being "kept in limbo." Presenters identified the lack of information about children in placement as a significant barrier in developing effective programs. Further concerns included the length of time a child spends in foster care, the hidden costs of foster care, and the training needs of foster parents. Recommendations cited were:

- "better substitute care services";
- more explicit policies regarding the length of time in foster care and guidelines for returning a child to his birth parents;
- additional funding for foster care/adoption programs;
- a child information system;
- mandatory training programs for foster parents; and
- no cuts in Title XX training money for foster parents.

The majority of presenters who addressed the issue of the needs of single parents emphasized the importance of recognizing that many American families are headed by single parents. Statistics were cited that one out of six children now live in a single parent family usually headed by women. Also, most families in poverty are headed by single parents. Consequently, economic and employment issues rank high for the single parent. Presenters focused on child care and training needs and mentioned that stresses on the single parent family are responsible for a range of social problems such as juvenile delinquency, drug and alcohol abuse and adolescent pregnancies. Recommendations for addressing the needs of single parents included:

- more reasonably priced but quality day care programs;
- adequate housing at reasonable rates; and
- credit, jobs and training.

Family Crises. The issues that received the most attention under this topic were:

- the increase of family violence; and
- the needs of pregnant adolescents.

Presenters identified family violence as a major social problem. While most focused on child abuse, others expressed concern regarding spouse abuse and incest. Causal factors cited for the increase in family violence were: pressures within the family; the absence of the woman from the home; lack of parent and family life education; unemployment; and the inability of persons to deal with anger. Recommendations cited were:

- a comprehensive study of child abuse to provide direction for relevant and effective policies and programs;
- increased funding for social services to families in stress;
- more emergency shelter facilities;
- family life education courses in the schools;
- self-help groups in the community; and
- changes in the welfare system to allow for a more speedy response to family emergencies.

Presenters who addressed the issue of the needs of pregnant adolescents cited the lack of family life and sex education courses, the absence of mothers from the home and the decreased influence of religious values as causal factors regarding the increased numbers of pregnant adolescents. Recommendations that were presented included:

- better communication between parents and their children;
- sex education at home and in school programs with parents having input into the design and orientation of such programs;
- family life education courses;
- programs with an educational component to avoid loss of schooling during pregnancy;
- counseling services for the adolescent; and

- welfare reform directed at providing benefits to the adolescent without limiting her freedom of choice regarding the birth and the care of the baby.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to the recommendations discussed under the five topics, there were a number of recommendations which were mentioned frequently by the presenters. These recommendations will be presented according to the four major areas of concern identified by the White House Conference on Families.

Families and Economic Well-Being

1. Federal and state governments should provide relevant job training programs especially for the poor and minorities.

2. The federal government should provide tax credits to businesses which initiate job training and career advancement programs for the unemployed, especially for low-income families and minorities.

3. The federal government should develop relevant job training programs and jobs for Indians as part of a comprehensive job center which would assist Indians in obtaining employment.

4. The federal government should encourage and businesses should initiate and support flexitime and leave programs which strengthen family life.

5. Federal and state governments should support and businesses should provide, whenever possible, child care services to families as a result of the increased participation of women in the work force.

6. Federal and state governments should fund more child care programs as a supportive service to families.

Families: Challenges and Responsibilities

1. Communities should develop more support services to families including counseling and parent education programs.

2. Family members, themselves, should develop better ways of communicating with each other and parents should be good role models for their children in this area.

Families and Human Needs

1. The federal government should improve the health care delivery system for families and, review medicaid and medicare regulations to determine their impact on family structure especially for the elderly.

2. Federal and state governments should review existing educational programs and upgrade the quality of education in the public school system.

3. Parents should be more involved in the educational system to insure that what is taught is consistent with values taught in the home.

4. The federal government should review housing policies to insure that elderly and low-income families are able to obtain adequate housing within their financial means.

5. The federal government should encourage, through various means, home ownership by low-income families and should eliminate housing projects.

6. The federal government should "get out of the business of child care."

7. Federal and state governments should support in-home care programs for the elderly which permit them to remain with their families and avoid institutionalization.

8. The federal government should not fund abortion programs as part of family planning.

Families and Major Institutions

1. Federal, state and local governments should review all their policies to determine their "family impact."

2. The federal government should review whether it is too involved in family matters, especially those areas related to the rearing of children.

3. The federal government should control television programming.

4. The federal government should broaden the base of Title XX eligibility.

EXHIBIT 3
FREQUENCY OF TOPICS AND ISSUES ADDRESSED*
STATE OF TENNESSEE TESTIMONY

FAMILIES AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING	
Inflation/Poverty/Inadequate Income	22
-impact of family stability	12
-impact on economic survival	10
Employment/Unemployment	14
-impact of unemployment	10
-other issues	4
Flexible Employment Practices	4
Increased Participation in the Work Force	8
Counseling Services in the Work Force	2
Employment Discrimination	6
Tax Policies	10
-marriage penalties	5
-other issues	5
Financial Assistance	21
-welfare reform	15
-social security	4
-food stamps	2

FAMILIES: CHALLENGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	
Marriage	2
Children and Parents	14
-supports for parents/ children	3
-responsible parenting	11
Special Challenges	23
-adoption/foster care	11
-single parenthood	9
-handicapping conditions	3
Family Crises	29
-family violence	18
-adolescent pregnancy	5
-other issues	6
Extended Family	4
Family Structures	39
-the traditional family	38
-gay families	1

*Exhibit lists breakdown of issues presented when a topic was addressed ten or more times.

EXHIBIT 3 (Continued)
FREQUENCY OF TOPICS AND ISSUES ADDRESSED
STATE OF TENNESSEE TESTIMONY

FAMILIES AND HUMAN NEEDS	
Availability of Quality Health Care	13
-range of services	10
-cost	3
Maternal and Infant Health	4
Family Planning	18
-abortion	16
-other issues	2
Preventive Health Care	2
Drug and Alcohol Abuse	3
Availability of Quality Education	5
Career Education	2
Family Life Education	12
-sex education	5
-preparation for marriage	4
-preparation for parenting	3
Special Education and Families	1
Housing	9
Child Care	18
-availability/quality	14
-cost	14
Services to the Elderly	7

FAMILIES AND MAJOR INSTITUTIONS	
Government: Local, State, Federal	17
-sensitivity to families	15
-other issues	2
Access to Government Programs	1
Military Families	3
Media	8
Law	3
Social Services	9
Community Institutions	6
Business and Industry	1
Transportation	2

EXHIBIT 4
STATE OF TENNESSEE - TEN MOST FREQUENTLY ADDRESSED ISSUES

Issue	Frequency of Presentation of Issues	Academic Institutions	Advocacy Groups	Professional Service Providers	Community Service Groups	Local Gov. Service Providers	State Gov't Admin.	*Other
1. Reinforcement of the traditional family	38	5	4	4	1	0	0	24
2. Impact of inflation	22	0	5	3	0	2	0	12
3. Increase in family violence	18	2	1	4	1	2	0	8
4. Need for child care	18	2	2	2	1	2	0	9
5. Funding of abortions	16	4	5	0	0	0	0	7
6. Availability of family life education courses	16	1	2	3	1	0	0	9
7. Need for welfare reform	15	3	0	2	1	1	0	8
8. Sensitivity and accountability of government to families	15	1	1	1	0	0	1	11
9. Impact of unemployment	14	0	5	1	2	0	0	6
10. Need for foster care reform	11	0	3	1	0	1	1	5

*Included in this category are individuals who testified on their own behalf and individuals affiliated with organizations which could not be categorized.

OVERVIEW
HEARINGS AND WRITTEN TESTIMONY
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

The hearings in the State of Connecticut were held on November 15, 1979, in Hartford and on the following day in Stamford. More than 275 persons testified and 71 persons submitted written testimony. While many of the participants represented various organizations such as Catholic Family Services, the Connecticut Task Force on Abused Women and Gamblers Anonymous, the majority of participants were individuals speaking on behalf of themselves.

TOPIC AND ISSUES

Both the oral and written testimony included a broad range of topics including the effects of government intervention in the family, welfare and welfare reform, domestic violence, family life education and inflation. Exhibits 7 and 8 present the frequency with which topics and issues were addressed by different groups and organizations. Presented below are discussions of the five topic areas most frequently cited by presenters and within each topic area one or two issues which received the greatest attention. The topics and issues are presented within the framework of the four major areas of concern developed by the White House Conference on Families.

Families and Economic Well-Being

Financial Assistance. The two issues that received the most attention under this topic were:

- concerns about the welfare system; and
- concerns about the Social Security system.

A significant number of speakers found present welfare programs, e.g., Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) unsatisfactory. Of particular concern was the criteria for qualification which restricts a number of "borderline" families and prohibits recipients from supplementing their payments by working. An underlying theme was the system's lack of sensitivity to the human aspects of family life. The following recommendation was made in connection with this issue:

- the welfare system should be reorganized so that it is more sensitive to the needs of families.

Presenters also found the Social Security system lacking in several areas. Recommendations in connection with this issue included the following:

- the Social Security system should be restructured to give greater attention to the displaced homemaker; and

- the Social Security system should be designed to complement the efforts of other programs such as AFDC and should be more comprehensive particularly in terms of referrals.

Families: Challenges and Responsibilities

Family Crisis. The issues which received the most attention under this topic were:

- need for programs and support systems for victims of domestic violence; and
- the plight of displaced homemakers and of youth who are potential juvenile offenders and runaways.

Protection for battered women and abused children was a primary concern of presenters. The problem appears to center on the quantity and availability of such shelters and services as opposed to the quality of existing programs. Recommendations included:

- funding for shelters and programs to assist victims and offenders should be increased;
- ". . . more research is needed to determine causes and patterns of domestic violence . . . [also need] emergency housing, counseling, job training for abused women, and day care facilities for their children"; and
- legislation and assistance designed to protect the abused elderly and enforcement of existing legislation to protect women and children are needed.

The other areas of crisis cited by participants were the plight of the displaced homemaker and of youth who are potential juvenile offenders and runaways. Recommendations included the following:

- should have more job training programs and public services for displaced homemakers; and
- should develop more preventive and support services for youth who are potential juvenile offenders and runaways.

Family Structures. The issues which received the most attention under this topic were:

- the social problems with which traditional families are confronted; and
- economic problems facing the traditional family.

Participants in the hearing identified a multitude of social and economic issues which are detrimental to traditional families. Among these problems are the move towards and acceptance of trends such as "living together," divorce, homosexuality, and the lack of religious and moral values fostered in the home and in the schools. Presenters recommended the following:

- families should become reacquainted with religious values and morals.

In addition, inflation has had a great impact upon families according to many presenters. The problem has placed a great deal of stress upon heads of household in their attempts to provide the basic necessities such as clothing and food for their families. In addition, high costs have forced many women and mothers into the work force. Recommendations included the following:

- The government should guarantee an adequate income or employment for heads of households in order to alleviate much of the stress of rising costs and inflation. As one presenter put it, "government economic policy must strengthen the traditional family so the wage earner is able to earn a salary that will support the family."

Families and Human Needs

Family Life Education. The issues receiving the most attention under this topic were:

- need for courses and programs designed to prepare people for parenting; and
- need for collaborative support efforts.

Many presenters felt that additional courses and programs on "parenting" would help to relieve many of the pressures faced by today's families. The following was recommended:

- courses and programs to prepare people for parenting should be offered to students, particularly high school students, and parents on a regular ongoing basis and should emphasize the importance of parental authority and children's responsibilities.

Participants also indicated a need for collaborative efforts on the part of families, schools and communities to provide support. Several presenters recommended the following:.

- "family focus centers" or "neighborhood community centers" should be established to assist married couples and/or parents with their problems.

Families and Major Institutions

Government: Local, State, Federal. The issues addressed most frequently under this topic were:

- the negative impact of government on families; and
- lack of coordination between state and local governments.

A relatively large number of participants indicated that governmental involvement in programs and issues related to the family was detrimental. Recommendations included:

- family impact studies should be conducted prior to the implementation of any assistance programs;
- prospective recipients should be involved in the development of assistance programs; and
- government should be more sensitive to the special needs of minorities (e.g., the handicapped, Blacks and Spanish-speaking) in the development and implementation of support programs.

Participants also discussed the issue of coordination between state and local governments. The following recommendation was made:

- coordination between state and local governments should be improved.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to the recommendations discussed under the five topics, there were a number of recommendations which were mentioned frequently by the presenters. These recommendations will be presented according to the four major areas of concern identified by the White House Conference on Families.

Families and Economic Well-Being

1. State and local governments should have more, better trained, and more sensitive AFDC workers.

2. Equal payment should be given for equal work.

Families: Challenges and Responsibilities

1. Courses on marriage relations should be developed.

Families and Human Needs

1. Birth control information and services should be made available.
2. Legislation which supports abortion should be repealed.
3. The federal government should provide housing subsidies.

Families and Major Institutions

1. More funding should be provided for quality T.V. programs reflecting family values. The quality of T.V. programs in general should be improved.

2. More use should be made of churches and community centers for family activities.

EXHIBIT 7
FREQUENCY OF TOPICS AND ISSUES ADDRESSED*
STATE OF CONNECTICUT TESTIMONY

FAMILIES AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING	
Inflation/Poverty/Inadequate Income	23
-inflation and economic survival	10
-inflation and emotional stress	13
Employment	10
-lack of employment opportunities	7
-unemployed minority youth	3
Flexible Employment Practices	12
-part-time; leave policies; etc.	9
-other issues	3
Increased Participation in Work Force	2
Counseling Services at Work	2
Employment Discrimination	15
-discrimination against minorities	8
-discrimination against women	7
Families as Consumers	1
Tax Policies	6
Financial Assistance	42
-welfare reform	27
-social security	8
-other issues	7
Insurance and Pensions	1

FAMILIES: CHALLENGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	
Marriage	5
Children and Parents	0
Special Challenges	15
-handicapping conditions	4
-single parenthood	9
-adoption/foster care	2
Family Crises	36
-family violence	29
-other issues	7
Extended Family	2
Family Structures	39
-the traditional family	29
-gay families	7
-other issues	3

*Exhibit lists breakdown of issues presented when a topic was addressed ten or more times.

EXHIBIT 7 (Continued)
FREQUENCY OF TOPICS AND ISSUES ADDRESSED
STATE OF CONNECTICUT TESTIMONY

FAMILIES AND HUMAN NEEDS	
Availability of Quality Health Care	22
-affordable health care	17
-other issues	5
Maternal and Infant Health	2
Family Planning	12
-abortion	7
-other issues	5
Mental Health	3
Preventive Health Care	4
Drug and Alcohol Abuse	4
Availability of Quality Education	11
-moral/religious instruction	5
-other issues	6
Home and School Relations	9
Family Life Education	32
-preparation for parenting	23
-sex education in schools	7
-preparation for marriage	2
Special Education	3
Housing	13
-availability	10
-rent subsidies	3
Child Care	26
-availability	21
-other issues	5
Services to the Elderly	2

FAMILIES AND MAJOR INSTITUTIONS	
Government: Local, State, Federal	34
-sensitivity to families	25
-other issues	9
Media	7
Law	9
Community Institutions	12
-religious organizations	7
-other issues	5
Philanthropy and the Voluntary Sector	1
Business and Industry	9
Transportation	1

EXHIBIT 8
STATE OF CONNECTICUT - TEN MOST FREQUENTLY ADDRESSED ISSUES

Issue	Frequency of Presentation of Issues	Academic Institutions	Advocacy Groups	Professional Service Providers	Community Service Groups	Local Gov. Service Providers	State Gov't Admin.	*Other
1. Social and economic problems of the traditional family	29	3	6	5	2	2	1	10
2. Programs for domestic violence victims, women and children	29	3	7	0	4	0	0	15
3. Reconstruction of welfare system, increased funding and criteria	27	0	3	3	6	0	1	14
4. Negative impact of government involvement in family	25	0	4	2	3	0	2	14
5. Courses and programs for parenting	23	1	2	6	3	0	0	11
6. Impact of inflation on families	23	0	0	1	0	1	0	21
7. Availability of quality child care	21	2	6	2	0	0	0	11
8. Availability of affordable health care	17	2	1	0	2	0	0	12
9. Availability of affordable housing	10	1	2	0	1	0	0	6
10. Flexitime, time sharing practices	9	0	2	2	0	0	0	5

*Included in this category are individuals who testified on their own behalf and individuals affiliated with organizations which could not be categorized.

OVERVIEW
HEARINGS AND WRITTEN TESTIMONY
STATE OF COLORADO

The Denver, Colorado national hearings were held on October 26 and 27, 1979. More than 240 persons testified and 32 persons submitted written testimony. Representatives from such groups as Stepfamilies of America, Families Are Responsible, the Farmers Union, and numerous individuals representing themselves participated in the conference activities.

TOPICS AND ISSUES

The topics presented in oral and written testimony ranged from broad concerns for developing social welfare and immigration policies to specific concerns regarding family conditions in boom-towns in energy impacted areas and the needs of the single male parent. The frequency with which topics and issues were addressed by presenters represented such a broad spread that they are best represented in chart form (see Exhibits 5 and 6). The following five topics were addressed most frequently by presenters and will be discussed according to the two issues under each topic that received the most attention by participants. The topics are arranged according to the four areas of concern identified by the White House Conference on Families.

Families and Economic Well-Being

Inflation. The two issues receiving the most attention under this topic were:

- impact of inflation on the family farm; and
- inflation as a cause for family breakdown.

Many farmers' wives were concerned that their children would no longer be interested in maintaining a farmer's life because it was becoming economically unfeasible. Some presenters expressed the need to recognize the working farm family as a role model for other families. Other presenters were concerned regarding the inequities associated with government tax breaks for big business. Recommendations included:.

- establishing community food co-ops to reduce the cost of the average family's monthly food bill and to provide an alternative market outlet for small farmers; and
- providing federal subsidies for utilities to low income farmers.

Presenters discussing the causal relationship between inflation and family breakdown cited "intense economic pressure requiring all family members to work" and "young couples having little hope of purchasing their own homes due to ever-increasing high mortgage payments." Factors such as these were viewed as forcing both spouses to work, which in many cases led to increased tension within the home, and a "delay or rejection of having children." The most frequently mentioned recommendation was:

- curb government spending to strengthen the national budget and to reduce the economic burdens of individuals.

Families: Challenges and Responsibilities

Family Crises. The two issues raised most often by presenters were:

- occurrence of family violence; and
- adolescent pregnancy/divorce and separation/displaced homemakers.

Many presenters were concerned about the degree of family violence evident today, i.e., abuse of spouses, the elderly and children, incest and general sexual abuse, and the interrelationship of these acts with drug and alcohol abuse. Some presenters indicated that causal factors related to violence are lack of support for families that was once offered by extended families and the excessive portrayal of family violence by the media. Recommendations included:

- establishing 24-hour emergency shelters;
- conducting research to determine the causes of family violence; and
- having schools review the effectiveness of families in the socialization process.

The issues of adolescent pregnancy, divorce and separation and displaced homemakers were mentioned with equal frequency by the presenters. The ever-increasing number of adolescent pregnancies and high infant mortality rates associated with this age group were of particular concern. Presenters discussing divorce and separation cited alternative family lifestyles and lack of commitment or knowledge of good parenting skills as causal factors leading to separation and divorce. Presenters concerned about displaced homemakers viewed the homemaker's plight as being directly related to America's poor economic condition. Recommendations associated with these issues were:

- more sex education and maternal health instruction in secondary schools and increased communication between parents and children in the home;
- more adult classes on family life education and the development of interpersonal communication skills; and
- extended day care hours for single mothers working split shifts and development of informal community support programs.

Families and Human Needs

Child Care. The two issues noted most often by presenters were:

- availability of quality child care; and
- variety of choices of types of child care.

A large number of presenters supplied data on research in child development stating "the quality of the environment, both psychological and cognitive, during the first six years of life is crucial to the level of adult functioning." There was also a concern among many Colorado families that present state licensing rules and regulations for special infant and toddler homes were inappropriate. One presenter stated:.

> Economic pressures are so intense that there is no alternative for many families except that all family members work. Yet, day care centers are woefully inadequate, few in number, and excessively expensive.

Recommendations included:

- utilizing a holistic approach in structuring programs within day care centers;
- tailoring current Federal Interagency Day Care Regulations to the specific concerns of Colorado families; and
- increasing the availability of federal Title XX monies through use of sliding fee scales for eligibility.

Most of the presenters who discussed the need for a variety of day care programs did so for employment-related reasons. Recommendations included:

- establishing 24-hour day care facilities;
- establishing on-campus facilities for pregnant students; and
- developing on-site child care facilities at places of employment.

Housing. The two most noted issues under this topic were:.

- availability of family housing; and
- cost of housing.

The concerns for both of these issues were interrelated, i.e., the cost of available housing was too high for many of Denver's lower-middle income families. Many presenters expressed concern regarding the "lack of housing in energy impacted communities" and the poor condition of housing that does exist. Recommendations included:

- federal subsidy of low-cost financing in the private sector;
- development of emergency housing facilities; and
- more Housing and Urban Development allocations to local programs mandating price controls.

Families and Major Institutions

Government: Local, State, Federal. The most noted issues under this topic were:

- sensitivity and accountability to families; and
- access to government programs.

There was mention of a need for guidance from the federal government for stress-ridden families as well as a prevailing belief that government already interferes with the sanctity of family life. In general, there was a belief in the basic good of families and a plea for appropriate government support. One presenter stated:

> Government cannot take the place of a loving family. Families should be encouraged to stay together instead of being offered quick divorces, contraceptives, abortions, sterilizations, and sex education without parental consent.

The major recommendation was:

- establishing a federal office on families and community life councils which would develop national priorities for families.

Presenters were also concerned with the amount of bureaucracy and "red-tape" involved in obtaining assistance from the already established family-oriented programs. There was mention of a belief that "all three branches of government are convinced that middle-aged, middle-income people are totally ignorant, uninformed and will forever remain the silent majority." Recommendations cited were:

- reliance on the laws of the churches instead of the federal government; and
- reduction of bureaucracy at all levels of government.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to the recommendations discussed under the five topics, there were a number of recommendations which were mentioned frequently by presenters. These recommendations are presented according to the four major areas of concern identified by the White House Conference on Families.

Families and Economic Well-Being

1. The federal government should provide incentives for increased participation in the work force and should motivate families through economic means.

2. Safeguards should be established for small farmers against large multi-national and foreign corporations.

3. Workshops should be developed by the Small Business Administration for would-be entrepreneurs.

4. The federal government should institute a follow-up study on the effects of the new food stamp regulations on the prevalence of nutrition and hunger.

5. Supplemental food programs should be improved by providing better quality food to consumers.

Families: Challenges and Responsibilities

1. Local governments should build emotional, political and social support networks for single parents.

2. Federal, state and local governments should support legal and community awareness of the problems and causes of family violence.

3. Communities should recognize and accept diverse roles with non-traditional family structures.

4. Communities should provide family counseling through courts of conciliation in divorce or separation cases and through family counseling centers.

5. Family Life Education Programs should educate family members about the vulnerable life cycle periods that may lead to individual breakdowns.

6. Communities should use federal funds to establish and support "Families Are Responsible Programs."

Families and Human Needs

1. State and local governments should implement extensive, community level first-aid education for volunteer emergency health personnel.

2. Vague government laws on narcotics abuse and drug paraphernalia should be eliminated.

3. Alternatives to out-of-home care facilities for the elderly should be established.

Families and Major Institutions

1. The federal government should increase the number of pre-deployment seminars for military personnel.

2. The federal government should conduct impact studies on boomtowns.

3. Communities should enact firmer, more uniform laws for family abusers.

EXHIBIT 5
FREQUENCY OF TOPICS AND ISSUES ADDRESSED*
STATE OF COLORADO TESTIMONY

FAMILIES AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING	
Inflation/Poverty/Inadequate Income	18
-impact on the family farm	15
-cause for family breakdown	3
Employment/Unemployment	3
Flexible Employment Practices	5
Increased Participation in Work Force	3
Counseling Services in the Workplace	1
Families as Consumers	6
Tax Policies	5
Financial Assistance	18
-welfare reform	10
-food stamps	3
-other issues	5

FAMILIES: CHALLENGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	
Marriage	1
Children and Parents	18
-parent/child relations	4
-supports for parents/children	14
Special Challenges	14
-handicapping conditions	3
-single parenthood	9
-adoption/foster care	2
Family Crises	33
-family violence	17
-adolescent pregnancy	5
-divorce and separation	5
-other issues	6
Extended Family	1
Family Structures	8

*Exhibit lists breakdown of issues presented when a topic was addressed ten or more times.

EXHIBIT 5 (Continued)
FREQUENCY OF TOPICS AND ISSUES ADDRESSED
STATE OF COLORADO TESTIMONY

FAMILIES AND HUMAN NEEDS	
Availability of Quality Health Care	5
Maternal and Infant Care	13
-preventive health awareness	10
-nutrition concerns	3
Family Planning	5
Mental Health	4
Preventive Health Care	5
Drug and Alcohol Abuse	5
Availability of Quality Education	11
-cost	6
-moral/religious instruction	5
Career Education	1
Home and School Relations	4
Family Life Education	15
-preparation for parenting	7
-preparation for marriage	4
-sex education in schools	4
Housing	21
-availability	14
-other issues	7
Child Care	41
-availability of quality care	31
-other issues	10
Services to the Elderly	9

FAMILIES AND MAJOR INSTITUTIONS	
Government: Local, State, Federal	32
-sensitivity to families	17
-sensitivity to racial/ cultural minorities	15
Access to Government Programs	17
Military Families	4
Media	11
-impact of TV/radio	10
-other issues	1
Law	14
-accountability of the legal	6
-divorce/separation	4
-other issues	4
Social Services	7
Community Institutions	7
Philanthropy and the Voluntary Sector	1
Business and Industry	8
Transportation	2

EXHIBIT 6
STATE OF COLORADO - TEN MOST FREQUENTLY ADDRESSED ISSUES

Issue	Frequency of Presentation of Issues	Academic Institutions	Advocacy Groups	Professional Service Providers	Community Service Groups	Local Gov. Service Providers	State Gov't Admin.	*Other
1. Availability of quality child care	31	2	4	7	1	4	2	11
2. Inflation - impact on family survival	18	1	1	1	1	1	0	13
3. Access of government	17	5	2	0	0	0	0	10
4. Government sensitivity/ accountability to families	17	0	3	1	2	1	0	10
5. Widespread family violence	17	0	3	0	2	1	0	11
6. Availability of adequate housing	14	1	4	1	3	0	0	5
7. Supports for parents/children	14	2	3	1	0	1	1	6
8. Accountability of legal system to families	14	0	4	0	0	0	0	10
9. Awareness of infant/maternal health	13	0	7	0	0	0	0	6
10. Welfare reform	10	1	0	0	0	1	1	7

*Included in this category are individuals who testified on their own behalf and individuals affiliated with organizations which could not be categorized.

OVERVIEW
HEARINGS AND WRITTEN TESTIMONY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Hearings were held on November 30, 1979, and December 1, 1979, in Washington, D.C. More than 250 persons presented testimony at these hearings and another 46 persons submitted written testimony. Representatives from groups such as the National Community Action Agencies' Executive Directors Association, My Sister's Place (a shelter for battered women) and the American Occupational Therapy Association, and numerous individuals presented testimony.

TOPICS AND ISSUES

The topics presented in both oral and written testimony included a wide range of concerns--from day care and the impact of family crises on family strength to inflation and the impact of federal, state and local government policies and procedures on the family. The frequency with which topics and issues were addressed by the various categories of presenters are listed in chart form (see Exhibits 9 and 10). The following five topics were addressed most often by the presenters and will be discussed in terms of the two specific issues under each topic that were mentioned most frequently: inflation, family crises, child care, impact of government (local, state, federal), and community institutions. In the discussion which follows, the topics are presented according to the four major areas of concern identified by the White House Conference on Families.

Families and Economic Well-Being

Inflation. The two issues that received the most attention under this topic were:

- the relationship between inadequate income and family stress and problems; and
- the relationship between inadequate income and family dependency on the government to meet basic needs.

Those who cited the impact of inadequate income on families stated that stress and depression have a negative effect on persons carrying out parental roles, thereby leading to an increase in such things as spouse abuse and child abuse. The economic burdens are particularly problematic for such groups as female-headed single parent families, the elderly, Blacks and prisoners' families. More women are being forced into the labor market due to economic necessity. The recommendations included the following:

- the federal government should establish a guaranteed minimum family income based on the prevailing cost of living index;

- the definition of "poverty" should reflect the inflation rate; and

- the problems of economically disadvantaged families should be a top priority.

Those presenters who cited the problem of inadequate income leading to increased dependency on the government, discussed the impact of inadequate income on a family's ability to obtain such basic human needs as housing, food, and health care. Presenters recommended that:

- employment opportunities should be developed for everyone who is willing to work.

Families: Challenges and Responsibilities

Family Crises. The two issues which received the most attention under this topic were:

- family violence; and

- divorce and separation.

The two most frequently mentioned categories of family violence were spouse abuse and child abuse and neglect. Several presenters mentioned that stress in the economic area is leading to a rise in the incidence of family violence. Others mentioned that there is a lack of adequate programs and/or shelters for helping the victims of such abuse, especially in the area of spouse abuse. One presenter summed up the recommendations presented:

- "The White House Conference on Families should encourage: the examination of social imperatives that influence the behavior of the abuser and the abused; the development of programs which will provide service both to the abuser and the abused; and the enactment of legislation which will provide realistic civil remedies."

The other issue frequently cited under this topic was that of divorce/separation. Some presenters suggested that the high rate of divorce is related to other major social problems. Others commented on the economic burdens faced by divorced women especially those who retain custody of their children. Presenters recommended that:

- programs should be developed to provide adequate financial support to women and children after divorce.

Families and Human Needs

Child Care. The two most frequently raised issues were:

- availability of and variety of choice in child care arrangements; and

- cost of child care arrangements.

Several presenters discussed the availablity and variety of child care arrangements. A few presenters questioned the wisdom of having children cared for by those other than their own mothers. The following recommendations were made:

- the quality, number and types of child care arrangements should be increased, e.g., child care arrangements are needed for infants and children under three years of age, for handicapped children, and school-aged children and such arrangements could be set up at parents' places of employment, schools, etc.;

- child care arrangements should create stimulating environments for children rather than simply providing custodial care and should be tied closely to the family, neighborhood and community; and

- child care arrangements should be conveniently located.

Cost was also mentioned as a consideration. Some presenters indicated that the costs of quality child care arrangements are prohibitive for many parents and reduce the number of options available. Several presenters suggested that:

- funding for child care should be increased; and

- child care arrangements should be reasonably priced.

Families and Major Institutions

Government: Local, State, Federal. The two issues most frequently cited in connection with this topic were:

- the role of government as it relates to families; and

- the government's sensitivity to families.

In terms of the role of the government in relation to families, many presenters felt that government policies and programs should be designed to strenthen and support families. In the words of one presenter, "the role of the Government is to augment, supplement, and subsidize rather than supplant or substitute for family capability . . ." Others were concerned that there seems to be no family policy. A few presenters felt that the family is ". . . none of the government's business" and that government should not interfere in family values. The general recommendation seemed to be that:

- all existing and proposed federal, state and local policies relating to families should be examined to determine whether they in fact strengthen and support families or whether they undermine family life.

Presenters also discussed government sensitivity to families. The following recommendations were made in connection with this issue:

- the federal government should be sensitive to changing family structures (e.g., increase in single parent families) and to the cultural, racial and religious diversity among families;
- programs should be tailored to the needs of minorities; and
- the federal government should allow families as much freedom for self-development as possible rather than providing too much interference.

Community Institutions. In terms of this topic, the two most frequently raised issues were:

- the impact of alternative religions/"cults" on families; and
- the role of community institutions related to families.

There were generally two positions in relation to alternative religions/"cults":

> "Rapidly increasing cult activity is one of the most serious threats to the family today. Cults are using deceptive techniques to suck youth in and build financial empires."; and
>
> "The deprogramming movement causes the greatest threat to religious freedom in America. Who in this country has the right to decide what is and is not a true religion?"

Recommendations were divided accordingly:

- those presenters who were against "cults" felt that information on "cults" should be distributed to the public, especially to youth, and that the federal government should launch an intensive investigation into various "cult" activities especially into suspected tax violations;
- those who represented alternative religious/"cults" felt that the White House Conference on Families should take an objective approach when looking at religions, especially minority religions, and that deprogramming should be stopped as it is an infringement on the individual's freedom.

With regard to the role of community institutions, some presenters felt that neighborhoods and local community groups can provide a great deal of support for families. Presenters recommended that:

- existing community resources (e.g., churches, neighborhoods, schools) should be used, or developed where necessary, to provide a network of support services to families.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to the recommendations presented in connection with the issues discussed above, there were a number of other recommendations which were cited frequently by presenters. Again, these recommendations will be presented according to the four major areas of concern identified by the White House Conference on Families.

Families and Economic Well-Being

1. Government should provide more employment opportunities.

2. Government and industry should strive for: increased flexibility in employment practices in terms of flexitime scheduling, increasing opportunities and benefits for part-time employment, maternity and paternity leave (to include adoptive parents), sick leave allowances for parents whose children are ill, and so forth. As one presenter said:

> "Greater flexibility in the corporate world is needed if women and men are to be able to fully commit themselves to careers and families and be productive employees as well as responsible partners and parents."

3. Government should revise tax policy so that it is supportive of families (e.g., provide tax incentives to families who care for ill, handicapped and elderly members in the home; allow married couples to use single tax rates; reform laws and regulations covering inheritance).

4. Government should redesign welfare programs so that they encourage family stability (e.g., provide an adequate income).

5. Government should develop a Social Security program for homemakers.

6. Government should support and encourage affirmative action for groups such as women, homosexuals, minorities, and others.

Families: Challenges and Responsibilities

1. Government should support the extended family concept.

2. Public awareness concerning the diversity of family structures should be increased.

Families and Human Needs

1. Public and private family planning services should be available to all women without regard to age, marital status, or income. Contraceptive techniques should be improved so that they are safe, effective and convenient.

2. On the issue of abortion, the presenters were divided: half felt that public funding for abortion should be restored and that abortion is a personal decision, while the other half felt that the White House Conference should repudiate abortion.

3. Quality public education should be made available.

4. Local communities should develop programs to strengthen home-school relations.

5. Local communities should establish family life education programs that include sex education, preparation for marriage, preparation for parenting, and continuing education in parenting. These programs should begin in the primary and secondary schools. Presenters differed as to who should provide information on sex education.

6. Government should support programs to provide better housing, especially for low-income families.

Families and Major Institutions

1. Media, especially television, should reflect an honest picture of the diversity of American family lifestyles, and cultural, ethnic and racial groups.

EXHIBIT 9
FREQUENCY OF TOPICS AND ISSUES ADDRESSED*
WASHINGTON, D.C. TESTIMONY

FAMILIES AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING	
Inflation/Poverty/Inadequate Income	26
-impact of inadequate income	18
-other issues	8
Employment/Unemployment	9
Flexible Employment Practices	10
-flexitime	4
-other issues	6
Increased Participation in the Work Force	3
Employment Discrimination	10
-need for equal employment opportunity	7
-other issues	3
Families as Consumers	1
Tax Policies	9
Financial Assistance	13
-welfare reform	8
-other issues	5

FAMILIES: CHALLENGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	
Marriage	2
Children and Parents	21
-supports for parents/children	12
-responsible parenting	9
Special Challenges	19
-single parenthood	7
-adoption/foster care	7
-handicapping conditions	5
Family Crises	35
-family violence	19
-divorce/separation	8
-other issues	8
Extended Family	1
Family Structures	6

*Exhibit lists breakdown of issues presented when a topic was addressed ten or more times.

EXHIBIT 9 (Continued)
FREQUENCY OF TOPICS AND ISSUES ADDRESSED
WASHINGTON, D.C. TESTIMONY

FAMILIES AND HUMAN NEEDS	
Availability of Quality Health Care	9
Maternal and Infant Health	2
Family Planning	20
-abortion	16
-other issues	4
Mental Health	11
-availability and appropriateness	5
-other issues	6
Preventive Care	7
Drug and Alcohol Abuse	5
Availability of Quality Education	14
-lack of quality education	7
-other issues	7
Career Education	2
Home and School Relations	12
-sensitivity to family forms	6
-other issues	6
Family Life Education	25
-preparation for parenting	11
-preparation for marriage and sex education	8
-other issues	6
Housing	13
-availability/cost	6
-other issues	7
Child Care	27
-availability/variety	16
-cost	4
-other issues	7
Services to the Elderly	7

FAMILIES AND MAJOR INSTITUTIONS	
Government: Local, State, Federal	56
-sensitivity to families	50
-sensitivity to social/cultural/religious differences	6
Military Families	4
Media	13
-impact of media especially T.V.	10
-other issues	3
Law	8
Social Services	5
Community Institutions	34
-religious and cultural organizations	30
-other issues	4
Business and Industry	2
Transportation	1

EXHIBIT 10

WASHINGTON, D.C. - TEN MOST FREQUENTLY ADDRESSED ISSUES

Issue	Frequency of Presentation of Issues	Academic Institutions	Advocacy Groups	Professional Service Providers	Community Service Groups	Local Gov. Service Providers	State Gov't Admin.	*Other
1. Role and impact of federal, state and local governments on families	56	4	13	2	5	0	0	32
2. Cost, quality and availability of child care arrangements	27	4	1	4	1	0	0	17
3. Impact of inflation, poverty and inadequate income on family functioning	26	4	6	2	0	0	0	14
4. The need for family life education	25	4	2	3	5	3	0	8
5. "Cults"/alternative religions and impact on family	25	0	7	1	0	0	0	17
6. Increase in family violence	19	1	1	1	9	0	0	7
7. Concern regarding abortion policies	16	0	5	0	3	0	0	8
8. Cost, quality and availability of education	14	1	3	0	0	0	0	10
9. The impact of the media, especially T.V., on family life	13	2	1	0	2	0	0	8
10. The cost, quality and availability of housing	13	0	1	1	1	0	0	10

*Included in this category are individuals who testified on their own behalf and individuals affiliated with organizations which could not be categorized.

OVERVIEW
HEARINGS AND WRITTEN TESTIMONY
STATE OF MICHIGAN

Hearings were held on December 7, 1979, in Detroit, Michigan and on December 8, 1979, in Oak Park, Michigan. More than 375 persons presented testimony at these hearings and another 62 submitted written testimony. Representatives from groups such as the Detroit American Indian Center, the American Association of University Women, and the Concerned Seniors for Better Government, and numerous individuals representing themselves participated in the conference activities.

TOPICS AND ISSUES

The topics presented in both oral and written testimony ranged from broad concerns such as inflation and health needs, to specific concerns such as housing conditions and job training. The frequency with which topics and issues were addressed by groups or organizations reflected such a broad range of concerns that they are best presented in chart form (see Exhibits 11 and 12). The following five topics were addressed most frequently by presenters and will be discussed from the perspective of the two issues under that topic that received the most attention by the participants. The topics and issues are presented according to the four major areas of concern identified by the White House Conference on Families.

Families and Economic Well-Being

Unemployment. The two issues that received the most attention under this topic were:

- the impact of unemployment on family life; and
- the need to provide employment opportunities for minorities.

Many presenters emphasized the frustrations which result from unemployment and which consequently "ruin family life." Connecting long-term unemployment with poverty, the presenters expressed their concern regarding the decrease in motivation which the unemployed experience and the cyclical nature of this process. Viewing unemployment as the root cause of other family and social problems, presenters were concerned about a number of areas: the dependence on welfare which results from unemployment; the increase in the crime rate as a result of unemployment; and the loss of self-esteem which accompanies unemployment. Recommendations suggested by participants were:

- more vocational training programs in the urban areas;
- passage of a bill similar to but more relevant than the Humphrey-Hawkins Bill;

- revitalization of small businesses;

- assistance to persons who have completed training programs to locate employment; and

- provision of child care services for the children of working parents.

Participants who addressed the issue of the need to provide employment opportunities for minorities focused on the Hispanic and Black populations. The Hispanics "are going to be the second largest minority by the mid-80's and among Hispanics, unemployment is more than double the national average. Among Hispanic youth unemployment is as high as 60 percent and higher paying jobs are not available." Presenters expressed similar concern for the Black population, especially Black youth, who also have a significant high school drop-out rate. Recommendations suggested were:

- expansion of the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA Program);

- support of P.L. 95-207 which states a major purpose of education is to prepare every individual for a career suitable to the individual's preference;

- "full employment for Blacks";

- more aggressive affirmative action programs; and

- the establishment of education and employment as national priorities.

Families: Challenges and Responsibilities

Special Challenges. The issues that received the most attention under this topic were:

- the needs of handicapped children and their families; and

- the needs of single parents.

Presenters focusing on the needs of the handicapped and their families discussed a wide range of handicapping conditions which included blindness, emotional disturbance, epilepsy, and developmental disabilities. While the handicapping conditions varied, presenters expressed similar concerns regarding: lack of community resources; need for public education; and stress on families who have a handicapped member. Recommendations cited were:

- early intervention with high risk children;

- support for P.L. 94-142 (Education for All Handicapped Children); and

- the training of teachers to work with the handicapped.

Presenters expressing concern regarding the needs of single parents focused on the unavailability of community services to support the one-parent family. Consistently ranked high as areas of need were: job training and employment; financial aid and education programs for adults; child care resources; flexible working hours including part-time employment; and emotional support systems for the parent and his/her children. Recommendations cited were:

- provision of job training and employment accompanied by flexibility in the work schedule and the availability of adequate child care;
- vocational training starting at the high school level;
- increased professional responsiveness to the kinds of problems single parents bring to agencies;
- encouragement of the foster grandparents program; and
- reevaluation of the eight-hour school day with consideration of lengthening it.

Family Crises. The issues that received the most attention under this topic were:

- the problems associated with divorce; and
- the increase in family violence.

Concerned about the high divorce rate, presenters addressing the problems associated with divorce consistently focused on the need to revise the divorce process and to provide counseling services prior to court proceedings. Other divorce-related problems presented were: the problems of women members of minority groups who are unprepared to handle employment issues after a divorce; laxity of divorce laws; the need for child care programs and flexibility in work schedules; and the need to consider the father's right to joint custody of the children. Recommendations cited were:

- tightening of divorce laws and the revision of no-fault divorce;
- development of family life education courses;
- expansion of court-related family counseling services; and
- simplication of the legal procedures for child custody.

Presenters who addressed the issue of family violence expressed their concern regarding the magnitude of the problem. While most presenters focused on child abuse, others emphasized spouse abuse as the major problem facing America today. Statistics cited were: in 60 percent of American marriages some wife beating occurs; wife beating is three times as frequent as rape; between 200,000 and 800,000 battered wives seek divorce every year; murder within the family makes up approximately 25 percent of all murder offenses; and reports indicate that less than one out of ten incidents of wife beating are reported. One presenter indicated that the "highest priority for the 80's should be domestic violence" and many presenters agreed that effective programs must exist to curb the rise of violence in the family. Recommendations were:

- the federal government follow the lead of some states like Michigan and Illinois in their support of domestic violence legislation, shelter programs, prevention and treatment, and public education programs;
- the federal and state governments fund self-help coordinating committees to address the issues of child abuse and the gaps in services; and
- the federal government develop a national family policy that advocates non-violence in families.

Families and Major Institutions

Government: Local, State, Federal. The issues that received the most attention under this topic were:

- the need to redirect government's involvement in the family; and
- the fragmentation in government services.

The majority of presenters stated that government efforts to support families have been ineffective and expressed the position that government ought to review its role and intervention in family matters and develop a national family policy. The rationale for such an approach was cited by the presenters because families have not had a central place in government policies and support to families has been lacking. Many presenters expressed concern regarding "wasteful government programs that undermine family solidarity." Recommendations cited were:

- "government reverse the trend of excessive government interference in family life and consider new, innovative ideas to improve the federal tax structure, education policies and public assistance programs"; and
- government pass the Family Protection Act.

Presenters addressing the issue of fragmentation of government programs stated that movement into one system decreases support from another, e.g., extra work reduces income maintenance benefits. They agreed that government programs should assist families in moving towards independence but stated that lack of coordination among government agencies fragments

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services and often increases unnecessary dependence on a service or support system. Recommendations were:

- development of an overall family policy and the requirement that each agency submit family impact statements;
- improvement in coordination among federal agencies;
- review of how families use governmental services in order to identify incentives and disincentives that present laws and regulations have on the family; and
- development of a better partnership between government, industry and the churches in order to strengthen family life.

Community Institutions. The two issues that received the most attention under this topic were:

- the need to shift the focus of family intervention from the federal level to the local level; and
- the role of community-based programs in family life.

Most presenters focusing on community institutions stated that federal government intervention in family life has been ineffective and emphasized the need for local and self-help initiatives in supporting families. Stating that there should be "local solutions to local problems," a number of presenters recommended:

- passage of the Family Protection Act which supports the "traditional family"; and
- increased involvement of local groups, especially the churches, with families to support parents who have the responsibility to transmit values to their children.

Presenters advocating for more "grass roots" and community-based programs stressed their relevance for families. Citing the lack of support for families and the need for additional local supports, presenters mentioned some successful initiatives which have been taken such as the United Neighbors and 4-H clubs which provide supportive services to families and enable family members to address, locally, problems they encounter in daily living. Recommendations cited were:

- development of family networks which would enable families to share with one another their successes and failures and common problems; and
- utilization of local community resources which are most familiar with local needs and problems.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to the recommendations discussed under the five topics, there were a number of recommendations which were mentioned frequently by the presenters. These recommendations will be presented according to the four major areas of concern identified by the White House Conference on Families.

Families and Economic Well-Being

1. The federal government should insure "minimum adequate grant standards in income maintenance programs."

2. The federal government should take aggressive steps to curb inflation.

3. The federal government should provide additional tax exemptions and deductions for low-income single-parent families.

Families: Challenges and Responsibilities

1. Federal, state and local governments and communities should develop more prevention and educational programs related to adolescents and pregnancy.

2. Federal and state governments should reform the foster care system. "At this time, Michigan has approximately 11,400 children in foster care, 9,500 of these children were removed from their homes because of abuse and neglect. It is believed that at least one-half of these children could have remained in their homes had support services been available to their families."

3. "The White House Conference on Families should take a close look at the alternative family life styles identifying their strengths and making recommendations to strengthen their weaknesses since the 1980's should see a continued rise in alternative family life styles."

4. Federal and state governments and industry should support programs for single parents with special emphasis upon child care, flexitime and job training.

5. Federal and state governments should support efforts to provide information to families regarding family resources in general, but specifically in relation to families with handicapped members.

6. The family should assume the responsibility for the entire area of values, their establishment and fostering.

7. Government and industry should support the displaced homemaker by providing re-education, vocational training and child care services.

Families and Human Needs

1. Federal and state governments should increase funding for services to the elderly. "National statistics indicate that senior citizens comprise 11 percent of our population; they account for 25 percent of our suicides; over 30 percent are below the poverty level; and 62 percent of them vote, more than any other population segment. The country's issues as a whole, inflation, food, energy and crime, affect our elderly along with everyone else. What makes it so difficult for them is their vulnerability, fixed incomes, loneliness and fears."

2. Federal and state governments should insure that comprehensive health services are available and accessible to all families.

Families and Major Institutions

1. The federal government should "insure the unique cultural and structural integrity of extended family networks in developing programs directed at servicing the needs of Indian families."

2. "The federal government should allow parents to retain their rights and responsibilities as overseers of the family" . . . "Our country was built on ingenuity and self-reliance, but government programs are stifling individual progress."

3. The communications industry should encourage and provide better television programming for children and their families.

4. The federal government should review the practices of "cults" and their effect upon family life.

5. Federal and state governments should provide transportation assistance to low-income families and the elderly.

6. Federal and state governments should insure that families have the financial and emotional supports necessary for them "to live in dignity." "We protect land, rare species of animals, birds, etc., why not the most important of all, mankind in its cradle, the family."

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EXHIBIT 11
FREQUENCY OF TOPICS AND ISSUES ADDRESSED*
STATE OF MICHIGAN TESTIMONY

FAMILIES AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING	
Inflation/Poverty/Inadequate Income	10
-impact on economic survival	7
-other issues	3
Employment/Unemployment	25
-problems of minorities	13
-unemployment and social problems	8
-other issues	4
Flexible Employment Practices	3
Increased Participation in the Work Force	4
Counseling Services in the Workplace	1
Tax Policies	4
Financial Assistance	13
-welfare reform	11
-other issues	2

FAMILIES: CHALLENGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	
Marriage	2
Children and Parents	23
-responsible parenting	20
-supports parents/children	3
Special Challenges	26
-handicapping conditions	11
-single parenthood	10
-adoption/foster care	5
Family Crises	55
-divorce and separation	21
-family violence	20
-adolescent pregnancy	7
-other issues	7
Extended Family	3
Family Structures	5

*Exhibit lists breakdown of issues presented when a topic was addressed ten or more times.

EXHIBIT 11 (Continued)
FREQUENCY OF TOPICS AND ISSUES ADDRESSED
STATE OF MICHIGAN TESTIMONY

FAMILIES AND HUMAN NEEDS	
Availability of Quality Health Care	10
-cost of care	8
-services and minorities	2
Maternal and Infant Health	1
Family Planning	17
-abortion	12
-other issues	5
Mental Health	3
Preventive Care	3
Drug and Alcohol Abuse	11
-abuse among children	5
-abuse among minorities	4
-other issues	2
Availability of Quality Education	15
-quality and cost	12
-busing	3
Career Education	2
Home and School Relations	12
-parental involvement in education	7
-other issues	5
Family Life Education	7
Special Education and Families	3
Housing	14
-availability and cost	12
-other issues	2
Child Care	22
-availability and quality	19
-variety of choices	3
Services to the Elderly	8

FAMILIES AND MAJOR INSTITUTIONS	
Government: Local, State, Federal	39
-sensitivity to families	34
-sensitivity to racial and cultural minorities	5
Access to Government Programs	1
Military Families	3
Media	9
Community Institutions	25
-religious and cultural organizations	10
-community based groups	8
-other issues	7
Philanthropy and the Voluntary Sector	1
Business and Industry	3

EXHIBIT 12

STATE OF MICHIGAN - TEN MOST FREQUENTLY ADDRESSED ISSUES

Issue	Frequency of Presentation of Issues	Academic Institutions	Advocacy Groups	Professional Service Providers	Community Service Groups	Local Gov. Service Providers	State Gov't Admin.	*Other
1. Government' involvement with the family	34	1	1	2	2	2	4	22
2. Impact of unemployment	25	1	3	3	0	0	1	17
3. Problems associated with divorce	21	0	1	5	3	1	0	11
4. Increase in family violence	20	2	2	0	3	3	0	10
5. Availability of quality child care	19	5	0	3	1	0	0	10
6. Importance of parent-child relations	13	0	1	2	1	0	0	9
7. Need for adequate housing	12	0	0	1	1	0	0	10
8. Impact of alcohol and drugs	11	1	0	0	0	1	0	7
9. Needs of handicapped children	11	1	0	1	0	1	1	7
10. Reform of the welfare system	11	0	2	1	0	2	0	6

*Included in this category are individuals who testified on their own behalf and individuals affiliated with organizations which could not be categorized.

OVERVIEW
HEARINGS AND WRITTEN TESTIMONY
STATE OF WASHINGTON

The hearing in the State of Washington was held in Seattle on January 11, 1980. The hearing scheduled to be held in Yakima had to be cancelled due to weather conditions; however, those who had planned to attend were strongly encouraged to submit written testimony. More than 200 individuals testified, representing themselves or public and private organizations. An additional 112 persons submitted written testimony.

Representatives from groups such as Project Home Base, National Caucus on the Black Aged, the Council for Private Education and numerous individuals representing themselves participated in the conference activities.

TOPICS AND ISSUES

The topics presented in both oral and written testimony ranged from the broad concerns about the impact of inflation and the role of the federal government in strengthening families, to specific concerns such as family life education courses and estate taxes. The frequency with which topics and issues were addressed by participants represents such a broad spread that they are best presented in chart form (see Exhibits 13 and 14). The following five topics were addressed most often by presenters and will be discussed in terms of the two issues under that topic that received the most attention by the participants. The topics have been organized under the four areas of concern identified by the White House Conference on Families.

Families: Challenges and Responsibilities

Special Challenges. The issues that received the most attention under this topic were:.

- effects of handicapping conditions on family strength; and
- the relationship of single parenthood to family strength.

Presenters who expressed concerns about handicapping conditions such as developmental disabilities and juvenile arthritis, discussed the degree to which these conditions present social, economic and emotional stress to the child and his/her family. Recommendations included:

- better implementation of P.L. 94-142 (Education for All Handicapped Children Act);
- supplemental security income guidelines should be revised to include more middle-income families; and

- educational and counseling programs for parents and children with handicapping conditions should be established.

The majority of presenters who addressed special challenges discussed the issue of the needs of the single parent. The comment was made that federal policies and employment practices have not kept pace with the changes in family structure. While the range of needs for the single parent family was the same as for other families--affordable housing, quality health care, quality educational and day care services--the presenters were concerned that programs and services designed to address these needs often still lack sensitivity to the special needs of the single parent. Recommendations included:

- policies and programs developed for families should be sensitive to the needs of single parents;
- support programs for single parents should be funded; and
- the Equal Rights Ammendment should be passed.

Family Crises. The issues that received the most attention under this topic were:

- effects of family violence on family strength; and
- impact of separation and divorce on family strength.

Presenters noted an increase in child neglect, child and spouse abuse and cited economic stress, decrease in religious values and lack of preventive services as causes. Recommendations included:

- federal criminal penalties for spouse and child abuse should be established;
- preventive and remedial services should be funded in cases of family violence;
- professionals should receive better training in detecting and handling instances of family violence; and
- family emergency shelter programs should be established.

Presenters who addressed the issue of separation and divorce, cited lack of pre-divorce counseling, lack of religious values and negative federal policies (e.g., tax "penalties" for married couples) as causal factors. Separation and divorce were frequently cited as the cause of adjustment problems with children (e.g., poor school performance, juvenile delinquency). Presenters made the following recommendations:

- family life education courses to include preparation for marriage and parenthood should be developed;

- communication workshops for families should be established--as one presenter put it, "let's teach families how to stay together through problem solving."

- arrangements should be made to allow third party reimbursement for marriage counseling

- family conciliation courts should be funded; and

- lawyers should receive training regarding the emotional impact of separation and divorce.

Families and Human Needs

Child Care Services. The two issues that received the most attention under this topic were

- the relationship of federal policy to the quantity and quality of child care services and

- the relationship of federal funding to the quantity and quality of child care services.

While most presenters favored federal involvement in child care programs some cited government intervention and bureaucratic "red tape" as the reason for deficiencies in the quantity and quality of programs. These presenters tended to suggest the following

- the federal government should disinvolve itself from child care programs and return them to the control of the private sector.

Other presenters favored federal involvement in and funding of child care programs. These presenters recommended the following

- the federal government should increase the quantity and enhance the quality of child care programs through higher salaries, the use of child development programs and the use of competency-based criteria for staff.

Families and Major Institutions

Government Local State Federal. The two issues that received the most attention under this topic were

- the federal government's responsibility to the family and

- the federal government's sensitivity to racial and cultural minorities.

Presenters had differing views regarding the federal government's involvement with families. Some presenters saw federal policies and programs as the cause of family breakdown, while others expressed support for the government's involvement with families and support for the White House Conference on Families. As one presenter put it, "it is the family that builds stable and productive individuals and those individuals build a Nation." Their major recommendations were as follows:

- some presenters felt that the government should "stay out of the family"--as one presenter put it, "many government policies are directly antagonistic to citizens and families . . . our government should remove itself as much as possible from the lives of its citizens."; and

- other presenters recommended that religious values be incorporated into policy development and that family impact statements be developed for all federal legislation.

Participants who addressed the government's role with respect to racial and cultural minorities cited a lack of sensitivity to these two groups as the cause of many economic, health and social problems with which they are faced. Representatives from the Alaskan, Asian, Black, Chicano, Hispanic, Filipino, Samoan and Native American communities expressed concern about the government's sensitivity to their needs. The following recommendations were made:

- federal funds should be allocated for support programs for each of the minority groups listed above;

- there should be an increase in the number of bilingual staff at public agencies; and

- immigration policies should be revised so that they are more supportive of foreign-born families.

Community Institutions. Many presenters who were addressing other topics and issues also made reference to the need for religious influence and values in the home and the school. However, the single issue that received the most attention was:

- the influence of non-traditional religious groups on the famiy.

The overwhelming majority of presenters expressed concern regarding young people being "brainwashed" and held against their will by groups the presenters identified as "cults." They cited the influence of these groups as an increasing threat to the stability or in some cases the very existence of the family. The most frequently occurring recommendations were as follows:

- the federal government should investigate "cults"; and

- the federal government should establish support programs for families whose members have joined these religious groups.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to the recommendations discussed under the five topics, there were a number of recommendations which were mentioned frequently by the presenters. These recommendations will be presented according to the four major areas of concern identified by the White House Conference on Families.

Families and Economic Well-Being

1. The federal government should establish a minimum guaranteed income standard with an emphasis that respects the freedom of individuals to manage their own lives.

2. Federal and state governments should revise financial assistant policies (e.g., food stamps, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, Aid to Families with Dependent Children) to be more sensitive to the excessive housing costs for the working poor.

3. Federal and state governments should revise tax policies to make them sensitive to the needs of widows(ers) and displaced homemakers.

4. Federal and state governments should establish tax credits that strengthen the family, for example, for care of the elderly and increase tax credits for married couples and for child care.

Families: Challenges and Responsibilities

1. Local communities should establish more parenting education programs to meet the needs of working parents.

2. Community organizations should establish workshops and services to help family members improve their communication with each other.

3. Community organizations should establish more positive parenting workshops for single parents (e.g., Parent Effectiveness Training, Transactional Analysis).

4. Federal and state governments should provide support programs (financial and services) to allow elderly persons to live with their families.

5. State and local governments should establish programs to provide support and counseling services to birth parents whose children are in foster care.

Families and Human Needs

1. The federal government should develop a national health plan that emphasizes preventive health care.

2. State and local governments should provide better funding of health care programs to: (1) serve more working class families; (2) provide accessibility in neighborhoods where families are located; and (3) provide better trained staff.

3. Local communities should revise zoning regulations to allow child care facilities to be located in downtown areas.

4. The federal government should conduct more research on improving contraception methods.

Families and Major Institutions

1. Federal and state governments should increase the participation of members of minority groups in policy development.

2. "The federal government should provide more intensive monitoring of compliance activities regarding civil rights and affirmative action regulations."

3. Federally funded programs should be decentralized to give more authority to state governments to administer funds.

4. "State governments should establish task forces, comprised of professionals working at the local level, to study and propose changes in regulations that address coordinated service delivery."

5. The federal government should investigate the tax records of "religious cults."

6. Federal and state governments should establish policies and fund programs to provide in-home services to families.

EXHIBIT 13
FREQUENCY OF TOPICS AND ISSUES ADDRESSED*
STATE OF WASHINGTON TESTIMONY

FAMILIES AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING	
Inflation/Poverty/Inadequate Income	20
-effects on family strength	17
-impact on economic survival	3
Flexible Employment Practices	5
Increased Participation in Work Force	6
Employment Discrimination	8
Families as Consumers	1
Tax Policies	12
-child care deductions	5
-other issues	7
Financial Assistance	10
-welfare reform	4
-other issues	6

FAMILIES: CHALLENGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	
Marriage	7
Children and Parents	13
-supports for parents/children	9
-responsible parenting	4
Special Challenges	34
-single parenthood	18
-handicapping conditions	9
-adoption/foster care	7
Family Crises	35
-family violence	13
-divorce and separation	8
-other issues	14
Extended Family	7
Family Structures	13
-the traditional family	10
-other issues	3

*Exhibit lists breakdown of issues presented when a topic was addressed ten or more times.

EXHIBIT 11 (Continued)
FREQUENCY OF TOPICS AND ISSUES ADDRESSED
STATE OF WASHINGTON TESTIMONY

FAMILIES AND HUMAN NEEDS	
Availability of Quality Health Care	3
Maternal and Infant Health	1
Family Planning	26
-abortion	22
-other issues	4
Mental Health	5
Preventive Care	5
Drug and Alcohol Abuse	9
Availability of Quality Education	24
-bilingual instruction	9
-moral/religious instruction	7
-other issues	8
Career Education	6
Home and School Relations	13
-parents' rights	12
-sensitivity to family forms	1
Family Life Education	24
-preparation for parenting	18
-preparation for marriage	3
-sex education in schools	3
Special Education	1
Housing	7
Child Care	31
-quality	23
-availability	5
-cost	3
Services to the Elderly	10

FAMILIES AND MAJOR INSTITUTIONS	
Government: Local, State, Federal	55
-sensitivity to families	32
-sensitivity to racial and cultural minorities	23
Access to Government Programs	2
Military Families	2
Media	14
-impact of TV/radio	10
-impact of movies	4
Law	11
-children and the law	5
-other issues	6
Social Services	7
Community Institutions	35
-religious organizations	33
-other issues	2
Transportation	1

EXHIBIT 14
STATE OF WASHINGTON - TEN MOST FREQUENTLY ADDRESSED ISSUES

Issue	Frequency of Presentation of Issues	Academic Institutions	Advocacy Groups	Professional Service Providers	Community Service Groups	Local Gov. Service Providers	State Gov't Admin.	*Other
1. Influence of non-traditional religious groups on family	33	2	0	0	4	0	0	27
2. The federal government's sensitivity to the family	32	0	3	2	5	1	3	18
3. Availability of quality child care programs	23	2	1	5	5	3	1	6
4. The federal government's responsibility to racial and cultural minorities	23	4	5	5	0	2	0	7
5. Government funding of abortions	22	1	5	4	2	0	0	10
6. Availability of quality education programs	21	2	2	4	1	4	1	7
7. The relationship of preparation for parenthood to family strength	18	1	3	5	4	1	0	4
8. The relationship of single parenthood to family strength	18	0	4	3	2	0	0	9
9. Impact of inflation on family strength	17	0	6	2	4	1	0	4
10. Causes and effects of family violence	13	0	0	1	4	2	1	4

*Included in this category are individuals who testified on their own behalf and individuals affiliated with organizations which could not be categorized.

IV. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS
NATIONAL HEARINGS

INTRODUCTION

This section of the report provides a summary and comparison of the ten issues most frequently cited at each of the seven national hearings. A summary of the categories of presenters who raised these issues is included also. By summarizing and comparing the findings of each hearing, a clear picture begins to emerge of the issues of greatest concern or interest to particular areas or regions of the country as well as issues which cut across the entire nation.

SUMMARY AND COMPARISON OF ISSUES

The four major areas of concern identified by the White House Conference on Families served as the framework for the summary and comparison of issues. These areas of concern include:

- Families and Economic Well-Being;
- Families: Challenges and Responsibilities;
- Families and Human Needs; and
- Families and Major Institutions.

Exhibit 15 presents a comparison of issues for each major area of concern and each national hearing. Immediately apparent upon inspection of this exhibit is that each major area of concern has at least one issue which received substantial emphasis at six or more of the seven national hearings. The following sections describe these and other issues within each of the four major areas of concern, beginning with the issue which received the greatest attention across all the national hearings.

Families and Major Institutions

Role and Impact of Local, State, and Federal Governments on Families. The issue concerning the role and impact of federal, state, and local governments on families was one of the ten most frequently cited issues at each of the national hearings. Further, for the hearings held in Kansas, Michigan, and Washington, D.C., it was the most frequently cited issue regardless of topic area. It is also important to note that in summarizing across the national hearings, the issue concerning the role and impact of government on families was addressed by more presenters than any other issue.

The general theme of presenters' concerns focused in two areas. Some presenters felt that government policies and programs (particularly at the federal level) contribute substantially to family breakdown. They spoke of government's intrusion into the religious and moral values of families, or simply of government's intrusion where it is unwanted and does not belong, i.e., in the family.

Other presenters spoke positively of government's involvement with families, while encouraging government to reexamine existing policies and programs to insure that they support and strengthen families and, in some cases, encouraging government to incorporate religious values in policy development.

As indicated by Exhibit 16 a substantial number of presenters who cited this issue were representatives of advocacy groups and to a lesser degree, community service groups and professional service providers. However, the majority of presenters citing this issue were individuals representing themselves.

Other issues. The remaining issues in the area of Families and Major Institutions were addressed substantially less frequently than the issue of government's impact on the family and were only among the ten most frequently cited issues for one or two of the national hearings. For example, presenters at the hearings held in the State of Washington and Washington, D.C. expressed concern about the influence of non-traditional religious groups, such as "cults," on families. Many presenters were concerned about young people being "brainwashed" and stated that "cults" are one of the most serious threats to the family today. Some presenters, participating in the Washington, D.C. hearings expressed concern that deprogramming is a serious threat to religious freedom and encouraged the White House Conference on Families to take an objective approach when looking at religions, especially minority religions. Across these two hearings, the presenters who cited concern about "cults" were generally individuals representing themselves.

The remaining issues in this topic area received particular emphasis at only one national hearing and are reflected in Exhibits 15 and 16.

Families and Human Needs

Availability, Cost, and Need for Quality Child Care. The issue of quality child care was of major concern at each of the national hearings. It was the most frequently cited issue for the hearings in Colorado regardless of topic area and was the second most frequently cited issue by presenters from all hearings.

Most presenters called for an increase in the number and types of child care arrangements available, stressing the importance of quality child care. Some presenters were also concerned about the cost of quality child care, which is too often prohibitive for many families. Some presenters also criticized current day care regulations as too restrictive, precluding the participation of many children in programs. A few presenters spoke against licensed child care facilities because it would eliminate relatives (e.g., grandmothers) as possible child care providers, while others criticized government for creating too much bureaucratic red tape regarding the use of government funded child care facilities.

The presenters most concerned with this issue tended to represent professional service providers, academic institutions, advocacy groups or themselves.

Availability of Information or Courses on Family Life Education Including Parenting, Marriage and Sex Education. This issue was a major concern at five of the seven national hearings, including those held in Kansas, Tennessee, Connecticut, Washington, D.C. and Washington. The general concern raised by presenters was the overall lack of adequate information or educational courses which could prepare adolescents for parenting and marriage, or which could assist parents in coping with family problems.

The majority of presenters who addressed this issue represented professional service providers, advocacy groups, community service groups or themselves.

Other Issues. A number of other issues were of major concern to presenters at various national hearings, although their frequencies are substantially lower than the two issues described above. These remaining issues are presented in Exhibits 15 and 16.

Families and Economic Well-Being

Impact of Poverty, Inadequate Income and Inflation on Families. This particular issue was the third most frequently cited by presenters, when summarizing across the national hearings. It was among the ten most frequently cited issues for each of the hearings except those held in the State of Michigan. (Presenters at the Michigan hearings did cite unemployment as a major issue, which is certainly related to inadequate income.)

Presenters generally focused on the relationship between economic hardship and family problems, citing inflation coupled with inadequate income (due to unemployment or fixed incomes) as causal factors in such family problems as: juvenile delinquency, family violence, drug and alcohol abuse, and divorce. Some presenters focused specifically on inflation and its disproportionate impact on the poor, elderly, farmers, Blacks, and Indians. Other presenters stated that inadequate income has forced families to become dependent on the government and has made it difficult for families to fulfill their basic human needs for food, health care and housing.

The presenters who addressed this issue were representing, principally, advocacy groups, professional service providers, community service groups, and, to a large extent, themselves.

Other issues. The remaining issues in this topic area were discussed to a lesser degree, although a fairly large number of presenters across the hearings in Tennessee, Colorado, Connecticut, and Michigan raised as an issue the need for welfare reform.

Exhibits 15 and 16 present the other issues in this area for each national hearing and each category of presenter.

Families: Challenges and Responsibilities

Increase in Family Violence, Its Causes and Effects. The fourth most frequently cited issue by presenters across all the national hearings was the increase in family violence. Only the presenters at the hearings held in Kansas did not place major emphasis on this issue. (However, presenters at the Kansas hearings did cite factors which affect parent-child relations, which is a related issue, as a major concern for them.)

Many of the presenters cited economic pressures, absence of the woman from the home, and lack of family life education as factors which have led to the increase in spouse and child abuse. Others raised concerns, in general, about the increase in family violence and the need for more local and national programs to deal with this problem.

Other issues A second issue which received substantial attention at the hearings held in Tennessee and Connecticut was that of supports for the traditional family. These presenters generally cited the need to reemphasize the traditional family structure of two parents, a mother and a father, with differentiated roles. Presenters also cited the problems or threats to the traditional family such as the diminished influence of the church, permissiveness within the family, abortion and women "forced" to move into the work force. This issue was generally raised by advocacy groups, professional service providers, and academic institutions, but also by a substantial number of individuals speaking on behalf of themselves.

The remaining issues were discussed to a lesser degree and are reflected in Exhibits 15 and 16. The following section presents a summary of the recommendations across the seven national hearings.

EXHIBIT 15
COMPARISON OF MAJOR ISSUES ACROSS NATIONAL HEARINGS*

Major Topic Area and Issues	National Hearings							
Families and Economic Well-Being	Kansas	Tenn.	Colorado	Conn.	Wash., D.C.	Michigan	Washington	Total
1. Impact of poverty, inadequate income and inflation on families	20	22	18	23	26	-	17	126
2. Problems with the current welfare system and welfare reform	-	15	10	27	-	11	-	63
3. Impact of unemployment	-	14	-	-	-	25	-	39
4. Women forced to participate in the work force due to social and economic problems	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
5. Flexibility in employment practices	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10

*Cells without frequencies indicate that the issue was not one of the ten most frequently cited issues for a particular national hearing.

EXHIBIT 15 (Continued)
COMPARISON OF MAJOR ISSUES ACROSS NATIONAL HEARINGS*

Major Topic Area and Issues	National Hearings							
Families: Challenges and Responsibilities	Kansas	Tenn.	Colorado	Conn.	Wash., D.C.	Michigan	Washington	Total
1. Increase in family violence, its causes and effects	-	18	17	29	19	20	12	115
2. Support for the traditional family	-	38	-	29	-	-	-	67
3. Factors which affect parent-child relations	21	-	-	-	-	13	-	34
4. Supports for parents and children	12	-	14	-	-	-	-	26
5. Problems associated with divorce	-	-	-	-	-	21	-	21
6. Relationship of single parenthood to family strength	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	18
7. Problems of handicapped children and their families	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	11
8. Reform of the foster care system	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	11

*Cells without frequencies indicate that the issue was not one of the ten most frequently cited issues for a particular national hearing.

EXHIBIT 15 (Continued)
COMPARISON OF MAJOR ISSUES ACROSS
NATIONAL HEARINGS*

Major Topic Area and Issues	National Hearings							
Families and Human Needs	Kansas	Tenn.	Colorado	Conn.	Wash., D.C.	Michigan	Washington	Total
1. Availability, cost and need for quality child care	19	18	31	21	27	19	23	158
2. Availability of information or courses on family life education including parenting, marriage and sex education	25	16	-	23	25	-	18	107
3. Concerns regarding abortion policies	15	16	-	-	16	-	22	69
4. Availability of adequate, affordable housing	-	-	14	10	13	12	-	49
5. Availability and cost of quality education	14	-	-	-	14	-	21	49
6. Availability of affordable, quality health care	-	-	-	17	-	-	-	17
7. Poor nutrition habits and lack of information on nutrition	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
8. Maternal and infant health care	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	13
9. Causes and effects of alcohol and drug abuse	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	11

*Cells without frequencies indicate that the issue was not one of the ten most frequently cited issues for a particular national hearing.

EXHIBIT 15 (Continued)
COMPARISON OF MAJOR ISSUES ACROSS NATIONAL HEARINGS*

Major Topic Area and Issues	National Hearings							
Families and Major Institutions	Kansas	Tenn.	Colorado	Conn.	Wash., D.C.	Michigan	Washington	Total
1. Role and impact of federal, state and local governments on families	41	15	17	25	56	34	32	220
2. Influence of non-traditional religious groups on families	-	-	-	-	25	-	33	58
3. Government's responsibility to racial and ethnic minorities	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	23
4. Accessibility of government to families	-	-	17	-	-	-	-	17
5. Accountability of the legal system to families	-	-	14	-		-	-	14
6. Impact of the media on families	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	13

*Cells without frequencies indicate that the issue was not one of the ten most frequently cited issues for a particular national hearing.

EXHIBIT 16

MAJOR ISSUES ADDRESSED AT NATIONAL HEARINGS BY CATEGORIES OF PRESENTERS

Major Topic Area and Issues	Frequency of Presentation of Issues	Academic Institutions	Advocacy Groups	Professional Service Providers	Community Service Groups	Local Gov. Service Providers	State Gov't Admin.	*Other
Families and Economic Well-Being								
1. Impact of poverty, inadequate income and inflation on families	126	6	20	9	7	5	0	79
2. Problems with the current welfare system and welfare reform	63	4	5	6	7	4	2	35
3. Impact of unemployment	38	1	8	4	2	0	1	22
4. Women forced to participate in the work force due to social and economic problems	10	0	1	0	0	0	0	9
5. Flexibility in employment practices	10	0	2	2	0	0	0	6

*Included in this category are individuals who testified on their own behalf and individuals affiliated with organizations which could not be categorized.

EXHIBIT 16 (Continued)
MAJOR ISSUES ADDRESSED AT NATIONAL HEARINGS BY CATEGORIES OF PRESENTERS

Major Topic Area and Issues Families: Challenges and Responsibilities	Frequency of Presentation of Issues	Academic Institutions	Advocacy Groups	Professional Service Providers	Community Service Groups	Local Gov. Service Providers	State Gov't Admin.	*Other
1. Increase in family violence, its causes and effects	115	8	14	6	23	8	1	55
2. Support for the traditional family	67	8	10	9	3	2	1	34
3. Factors which affect parent-child relations	34	1	3	2	3	0	0	25
4. Supports for parents and children	26	2	6	4	0	1	1	12
5. Problems associated with divorces	21	0	1	5	3	1	0	11
6. Relationship of single parenthood to family strength	18	0	4	3	2	0	0	9
7. Problems of handicapped children and their families	11	1	0	1	0	1	1	7
8. Reform of the foster care system	11	0	3	1	0	1	1	5

*Included in this category are individuals who testified on their own behalf and individuals affiliated with organizations which could not be categorized.

EXHIBIT 16 (Continued)
MAJOR ISSUES ADDRESSED AT NATIONAL HEARINGS BY CATEGORIES OF PRESENTERS

Major Topic Area and Issues Families and Human Needs	Frequency of Presentation of Issues	Academic Institutions	Advocacy Groups	Professional Service Providers	Community Service Groups	Local Gov. Service Providers	State Gov't Admin.	*Other
1. Availability, cost and need for quality child care	158	19	18	23	9	10	7	72
2. Availability of information or courses on family life education including parenting, marriage and sex education	107	7	15	22	14	4	0	45
3. Concern regarding abortion policies	69	5	16	8	5	0	0	35
4. Availability of adequate, affordable housing	49	2	7	3	6	0	0	31
5. Availability and cost of quality education	49	4	5	4	1	4	1	30
6. Availability of affordable, quality health care	17	2	1	0	2	0	0	12
7. Poor nutrition habits and lack of information on nutrition	14	1	5	1	0	0	0	7
8. Maternal and infant health care	13	0	7	0	0	0	0	6
9. Causes and effects of alcohol and drug abuse	11	1	0	2	0	1	0	7

*Cells without frequencies indicate that the issue was not one of the ten most frequently cited issues for a particular national hearing.

EXHIBIT 16 (Continued)
MAJOR ISSUES ADDRESSED AT NATIONAL HEARINGS BY CATEGORIES OF PRESENTERS

Major Topic Area and Issues Families and Major Institutions	Frequency of Presentation of Issues	Academic Institutions	Advocacy Groups	Professional Service Providers	Community Service Groups	Local Gov. Service Providers	State Gov't Admin.	*Other
1. Role and impact of federal, state and local governments on families	220	6	33	11	17	4	10	139
2. Influence of non-traditional religious groups on families	58	2	7	1	4	0	0	44
3. Government's responsibility to racial and ethnic minorities	23	4	5	5	0	2	0	7
4. Accessibility of government to families	17	5	2	0	0	0	0	10
5. Accountability of the legal system to families	14	0	4	0	0	0	0	10
6. Impact of the media on families	13	2	1	0	2	0	0	8

*Cells without frequencies indicate that the issue was not one of the ten most frequently cited issues for a particular national hearing.

V. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The following is a summary of the recommendations presented earlier in the overviews of oral and written testimony provided in connection with the seven national hearings.

In general, across the seven regions, recommendations were made most often concerning: inflation; employment; flexibility in employment practices; welfare reform; tax policy; family challenges and crises; supports for families; the traditional family; health and health-related services; family life education; child care; housing; the media; and the role of federal, state and local governments with respect to the family.

The frequency with which recommendations were made on any topic or issue tended to follow the frequency with which the topics and issues were addressed within and across the seven national hearings. The frequencies of selected topics and issues are presented in exhibits in the individual overviews (Chapter III) and in the summary of findings (Chapter IV). As the recommendations have been summarized, no attempt has been made to link specific recommendations with specific groups or organizations. Whenever possible, statements that are explicit in the testimony have been used to present the combined expressions of several participants.

In this section, the recommendations from the individual overviews were organized according to topics and issues and then collapsed according to the major areas of concern. They have been organized to present those that have implications for the public sector (government: local, state and federal), those that have implications for business and industry (private sector) and those that call for individual initiatives (community/individual). They are not presented in order of frequency; however, as mentioned earlier, they were the most frequently cited recommendations.

FAMILIES AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

Government: Local, State, Federal

1. Federal and state governments should take action to stop inflation.

2. The federal government should curb government spending to strengthen the national budget, in order to reduce the economic burdens on individuals.

3. The federal government should establish employment and education as national priorities.

4. The federal government should support an increase in the number of available jobs and job training programs, especially for low-income persons and minorities.

5. The federal government should provide tax credits to businesses which initiate job training and career advancement programs for the unemployed, especially for low-income persons and minorities.

6. The federal government should establish a minimum guaranteed income standard with an emphasis on respect for freedom of individuals to manage their own lives.

7. Federal and state governments should revise the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program to increase benefits and expand eligibility to include two-parent families.

8. The federal government should revise tax policies to reduce taxes, to provide tax consideration for homemakers and to eliminate the marriage penalty.

9. The federal government should increase Social Security benefit levels and review Social Security policies to determine their impact on families, especially the elderly.

10. The federal government should provide subsidies to low-income families for utilities.

Private Sector

1. Business and industry should provide more jobs and job training programs, especially for low-income families and minorities.

2. Industry should strive for increased flexibility in employment (personnel) practices in terms of flexitime scheduling, increased opportunities and benefits for part-time employment, maternity and paternity leave (to include adoptive parents), sick leave allowances for parents whose children are ill, etc.

3. Industry should support more aggressive affirmative action programs.

FAMILIES: CHALLENGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Government: Local, State, Federal

1. Federal, state and local governments should reform the foster care system and provide additional funding. Reform should include such things as: more explicit policies regarding length of time in foster care and guidelines for returning the child to his/her birth parents; programs to provide support and counseling services to birth parents whose children are in foster care; and mandatory training for foster parents.

2. Federal, state and local governments should develop coordinated services and programs to assist handicapped persons and their families.

3. Government and communities should develop programs and services designed to address the issue of adolescent pregnancy. These programs and services should include such things as counseling and family life education.

4. With regard to family violence, "The White House Conference on Families should encourage: the examination of the social imperatives that influence the behavior of the abuser and the abused; the development of programs which will provide service both to the abuser and the abused; and the enactment of legislation which will provide realistic civil remedies."

5. "The White House Conference should take a close look at alternative [to the traditional family] family lifestyles, identifying their strengths and making recommendations to strengthen their weaknesses . . ."

6. The federal government should support the extended family concept.

Private Sector

1. Industry and government should support programs and services that meet the needs of single parents in terms of such things as: convenient and affordable quality child care; affordable housing; flexitime and job training.

2. Industry and government should provide support services to the displaced homemaker.

Community/Individual

1. Communities should develop support systems that will provide coordinated services to families including counseling and parent education programs designed to improve communication among family members and which meet the needs of working parents.

2. Families should assume the responsibility for the entire area of values--both their establishment and fostering.

3. To address the issue of divorce and separation, communities should develop family life education courses and courses in interpersonal communication skills.

FAMILIES AND HUMAN NEEDS

Government: Local, State, Federal

1. The federal government should insure that comprehensive health services (including preventive services) are available and accessible to all families.

2. Public and private family planning services should be available to all women without regard to age, marital status or income. The federal government should conduct more research on improving methods of contraception.

3. With regard to abortion, there are two positions: (1) the government should not fund or support abortion programs; and (2) all financial and legal barriers to abortion should be removed.

4. Federal, state and local governments should review existing education programs and upgrade the quality of education in the public school system.

5. The federal government should review housing policies and programs to insure that the elderly and low-income families are able to obtain adequate housing within their financial means.

6. Federal and state governments should provide more funding for child care programs and revise eligibility criteria which currently exclude too many children. On the other side, other presenters felt that the government ought to "get out of the business of child care" and return child care programs to the control of the private sector.

7. Federal and state governments should provide support, both in terms of funding and services, to make it possible for elderly persons to live with their families and avoid institutionalization.

Private Sector

1. Business and industry should assist in establishing child care facilities designed to meet the needs of working parents.

Community/Individual

1. Communities should develop educational and treatment programs for alcohol and drug abusers which would involve family members.

2. Parents should be more involved in the educational system to insure that what is taught is consistent with the values taught in the home.

3. Communities should develop family life education programs to include sex education, preparation for marriage and preparation for parenting. A network of family life centers should also be set up from which family members can receive on-going help in parenting.

4. A variety of quality child care arrangements should be available to provide parents with a choice and to meet different needs. For example: child care arrangements for infants and children under age three, for school-aged children and handicapped children; child care arrangements set up

at the parent's place of employment and/or in schools; and 24-hour care (e.g., for parents who work split shifts).

FAMILIES AND MAJOR INSTITUTIONS

Government: Local, State, Federal

1. Federal and state governments should review all their policies to determine their "family impact."

2. Federal and state governments should be sensitive to changing family structures (e.g., increase in single parent families) and to cultural, racial and ethnic diversity among families. Programs should be tailored to the needs of minorities.

3. The federal government should improve coordination among federal agencies so as to avoid the fragmentation of services which currently exists.

4. The federal government should increase the number of predeployment seminars and other support services for military families.

5. Federal and state public policy makers should work closely with business and local communities to improve the quality of life for families.

6. The federal government should have more control over television programming and should encourage the electronic media to present programming which emphasizes and supports the permanency of marriage and the importance of parenthood and family relationships.

7. The federal government should provide more intensive monitoring of compliance in regard to civil rights and affirmative action regulations.

8. Federal and state governments should establish social service programs which are accessible and should broaden the base of Title XX eligibility.

9. The state court systems should: more strictly enforce alimony and support payments; simplify legal procedures for child custody; and expand court-related counseling services in divorce cases.

10. With regard to "cults"/alternative religions, there are two positions: (1) the federal government should take an objective approach when looking at religions, especially "minority" religions; and (2) the federal government should investigate "cults" and establish support programs for families whose members have joined these religious groups.

Private Sector

1. The communications industry should support television programming

which reflects an honest picture of the diversity of family lifestyles and cultural, ethnic and racial groups.

2. Business should provide transportation assistance to low-income families and the elderly.

Community/Individual

1. Neighborhood and community groups and organizations, especially churches, should be used to provide a network of support services to families.

2. There should be more "grass roots" community-based programs which could assist families in developing solutions to local needs and problems.

APPENDIX

A. SAMPLE TOPIC OUTLINE DEVELOPED BY WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON FAMILIES

B. SAMPLE REVIEW FORM

C. PARTICIPANTS LIST

A. SAMPLE TOPIC OUTLINE DEVELOPED BY WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON FAMILIES

THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON FAMILIES

Sample Topic Outline

Themes

- Family Strengths and Supports
- Diversity of Families
- The Changing Realities of Family Life
- The Impact of Public and Private Institutional Policies
- The Impact of Discrimination
- Special Needs of:
  - Elderly Families
  - Families with Handicapped Members
  - Single Parent Families
  - Other Families with Special Needs

Major Topic Areas

Topics

Families and Economic Well-Being

Poverty/Inadequate Income

Employment/Unemployment/Underemployment

Inflation

Families and The Workplace
- -career planning
- -part-time, full-time, flexitime
- -transfer policies
- -sick leave and other leave policies
- -maternity leave, paternity leave
- -increased participation in workforce
- -counseling facilities at work
- -job sharing

Families as Consumers
- -credit
- -advertising
- -retail practices

Tax Policy
- -marriage penalty
- -child care deductions
- -exemptions for dependents

Financial Assistance
- -welfare and welfare reform
- -food stamps
- -social security
- -unemployment insurance

Insurance and Pensions

Families: Challenges and Responsibilities

The Growth and Care of...
- -the child
- -the youth
- -the adult
- -the aged

Marriage
- -preparation for marriage
- -supports for marriage
- -divorce/separation
- -counseling/therapy

Children and Parents
- -preparation for parenting
- -supports for parents and children
- -adoption/foster care
- -parent-child relations
- -responsible parenting

Special Challenges
- -handicapping conditions
- -single parenthood

Family Crises
- -adolescent pregnancy
- -divorce
- -family violence
- -death and dying
- -displaced homemaker
- -juvenile delinquency

Extended Family & Other Family Networks

Families and Human Needs

Health
- -relationship between families and health care system
- -availability, quality & cost of health care
- -maternal & infant health
- -family planning
- -mental health
- -health education
- -drug & alcohol abuse
- -food and nutrition
- -preventive care
- -chronic illness
- -long-term care

Education
- -availability of quality education
- -cost of education
- -home-school relations
- -family life education
- -special education and families
- -continuing education
- -sensitivity to family forms
- -career education
- -retraining

Housing
- -availability of family housing
- -cost of housing
- -housing discrimination
- -neighborhood and community impact
- -housing displacement

Child Care
- -availability of quality child care
- -variety of choices: family, community, private, publicly-supported
- -cost of child care

Care of The Elderly
- -availability of quality care
- -variety of choices: family, community, private, publicly-supported
- -costs

Families and Major Institutions

Government-local, state, federal
- -overall family perspectives
- -sensitivity to families
- -access
- -accountability to families
- -military

Media
- -radio/t.v.
- -newspapers/magazines
- -movies

Law
- -divorce/separation/alimony
- -adoption/foster care
- -custody/child support/visitation
- -juvenile justice/delinquency
- -children and the law
- -child neglect/child abuse
- -court-related counseling
- -spouse abuse

Social Services
- -availability/accountability
- -cost
- -government funding: Title XX
- -dissemination of information
- -helping professions

Community Institutions
- -self help groups
- -religions and cultural organizations
- -informal supports
- -civic and fraternal organizations

Philanthropy and the Voluntary Sector

Business and Industry

Transportation

SAMPLE REVIEW FORM

City, State, Date of Hearing

Reviewer

Characteristics Code

A	B	TOPIC(S)	ISSUE(S)	RECOMMENDATION(S)

Key for Characteristics Codes

A - Individual representing himself/herself or his/her family

B - Groups or organizations represented by type

1. Academic - Colleges and universities
2. Advocacy - (e.g., Association for Retarded Citizens; anti-abortion)
3. Professional service provider (e.g., Easter Seal Society; lawyer)
4. Community service (e.g., Lions; Boy Scouts, etc.)
5. Local government service program (e.g., Department of Human Resources)
6. State government - policy or program developers
7. Other - (identify in topic area)

THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON FAMILIES

*PARTICIPANTS LIST

KANSAS CITY, KANSAS SEPTEMBER 28, 1979

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THE CATHOLIC RESPECT LIFE COUNCIL
THE CENTRAL REGION OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PASTORAL COUNSELORS
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*As printed lists of participants were unavailable, NIAS has reproduced the names on this list exactly as they were spelled (phonetically) in the transcripts.

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GEORGE HAWKINS
REV. TAYLOR
MR. BILL RANKIN

LINDSBURG, KANSAS SEPTEMBER 29, 1979

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SENIOR AIRMAN O'DELL
IRENE HEINES
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SUE UNGER
MR. ED SHEPARD
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*As printed lists of participants were unavailable, NIAS has reproduced the names on this list exactly as they were spelled (phonetically) in the transcripts.

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NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE OCTOBER 12, 1979

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*As printed lists of participants were unavailable, NIAS has reproduced the names on this list exactly as they were spelled (phonetically) in the transcripts.

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MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE OCTOBER 13, 1979

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*As printed lists of participants were unavailable, NIAS has reproduced the names on this list exactly as they were spelled (phonetically) in the transcripts.

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*As printed lists of participants were unavailable, NIAS has reproduced the names on this list exactly as they were spelled (phonetically) in the transcripts.

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DENVER, COLORADO OCTOBER 27, 1979

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*As printed lists of participants were unavailable, NIAS has reproduced the names on this list exactly as they were spelled (phonetically) in the transcrpits.

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HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT NOVEMBER 16, 1979

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WASHINGTON, D.C. NOVEMBER 30, 1979

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